Daily Report

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Arab-Israeli Talks

Multilateral Environmental Talks Resume in Tokyo

TA2405175793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1605 GMT 24 May 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. Yisra'el Peleg, head of the Israeli delegation to the multilateral talks on environmental issues, in Tokyo, by moderator Karmit Gay—live]

[Text] [Gay] The multilateral peace talks on environmental issues resumed in Tokyo today. The participants divided up into six working groups dealing with environmental awareness, the fight against desertification, sea pollution, sewage drainage systems, and other issues. Good evening to Israeli representative, Dr. Yisra'el Peleg.

[Peleg] Good evening to you.

[Gay] What took place in the working groups today?

[Peleg] The convening of the working groups during the second part of the day gave us the feeling that this gathering of the multilateral conference on environmental issues is achieving progress not only in terms of identifying the issues and defining the desirable projects for treatment, but also in terms of the style of work, namely in creating an informal dialogue which is impossible to attain in the plenum sessions.

The six working groups which you mentioned defined the issues on which the various sides are interested in cooperating. The first issue is that of desertification. The World Bank has stressed the importance of this issue and even offered the countries involved the use of Israeli expertise. Of special interest was the meeting headed by the Jordanians, who proposed to set up a special project of regional environmental education and awareness. When we informed the Jordanians about the Israeli environment awareness year they agreed to embrace our proposal that 1994 will be declared a year of environment awareness in the Middle East.

[Gay] What do you expect to happen tomorrow?

[Peleg] Tomorrow we will conclude the meeting. We will have to deal with the tensions which surfaced this morning, when the Palestinians gave the session a political overtone. We, in turn, did our best to avoid this and to stick to the original agenda, a thing which was completely supported by the Japanese chairman. Based on the procedures adopted in our sessions, we expect the Japanese chairman to sum up the issues on which we decided to cooperate—including a plan for joint emergency preparations for combating offshore oil spills, both in the southeastern basin of the Mediterranean and in the Gulf of Aqaba. The Japanese chairman will undoubtedly mention the project of fighting desertification. We also think that he wants to tackle either or both of the problems of solid waste in Gaza and the West Bank sewage drainage system. Since both the Japanese chairman and the American sponsors sincerely want to implement the various projects, I assume that this will find expression in the concluding statement.

[Gay] Thank you very much, Dr. Peleg.

Japan Offers Aid to Palestinians

OW2405015693 Tokyo KYODO in English 0134 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Tokyo, May 24 KYODO—Japan on Monday [24 May] offered 3 million dollars in emergency aid for an international fund to help improve the livelihood and environment of Palestinians living in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Parliamentary Vice Foreign Minister Koji Kakizawa announced the new Japanese aid to the Japan-Palestinian Fund to be administered under the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

The announcement came on the opening day of a two-day meeting of an environmental panel established as part of the multilateral Middle East peace process.

Kakizawa, reading a speech on behalf of Foreign Minister Kabun Muto, also told the meeting Japan is prepared to host a seminar in June to discuss measures to prevent accidents at sea involving oil tankers and other ships.

He also proposed holding talks among experts to draw up a set of steps to protect the environment in the Middle East.

Representatives from Japan, Israel, Jordan and some 40 other countries and international organizations are attending the Tokyo meeting on environmental protection in the Mideast.

Israeli Speaks at Environment Conference in Casablanca

TA2405164293 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Minister Yosi Sarid, who is participating in the Casablanca conference on environmental issues, said that Israel will agree to pay a heavy territorial price in exchange for peace and real security. In his opening speech, Minister Sarid emphasized that at present Israel is busy with ensuring its security, but once this is achieved it will be possible to attain broad cooperation with all the countries of the region. Our correspondent Shulamit Schmerling reports that Minister Sarid met today with most of the representatives of the countries attending the conference, including Arab countries.

Inter-Arab Affairs

Seminar on Arab Water Resources Opens in Tripoli

LD2405172193 Tripoli JANA in English 1648 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Tripoli, al-Ma' [May] 24, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—The first scientific seminar on water resources in the Arab homeland began in Tripoli today. It is organized by the General Union of Engineers in the Great Jamahiriyah in collaboration with the Arab Engineers Union.

The two day conference will discuss various issues related to water resources, its planning and its control as well as the construction of joint investment projects in the area of water resources.

A large number of experts, professors and technicians from the Great Jamahiriyah as well as from Egypt, Tunisia, Jordan, Syria, Iraq and Palestine are participating in the seminar.

The opening session of the seminar was addressed by the secretary of the affairs of trade unions, federations and professional associations of the General People's Committee and by the secretary general of the Great Jamahiriyah Engineers Union and the resident representative of the United Nations Development Programme in the Great Jamahiriyah.

Arab League Head on China Visit, Arab Reconciliation

NC2505075593 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 25 May 93

[Interview with Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, in Beijing, by Muhammad al-Aswad in Cairo, carried within the "Dialogue from Afar" program; date not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Al-Aswad] You are now visiting Beijing to boost relations between the Arab League and China. What are your efforts focusing on in this visit so as to give impetus to Arab-Chinese relations?

['Abd-al-Majid] The aim of the visit is to sign an agreement with the deputy Chinese prime minister and foreign minister to open an Arab League office in Beijing. This agreement was signed today in Beijing. [passage omitted]

We believe that this measure will give a strong impetus to closer ties between the Arab countries and China. In my meeting today with the Chinese president and my meetings with senior Chinese officials, they welcomed this step and expressed their constant readiness to develop and strengthen Arab-Chinese relations. [passage omitted]

[Al-Aswad] China is a big country with international status. It is a permanent Security Council member. In addition to the opening of an Arab League office in Beijing, has the League specific plans for establishing ties to achieve the common interests of the Arab world and China which you will discuss with Chinese officials during the remainder of the visit?

['Abd-al-Majid] The various important issues that concern the Arab world and the international community have already been discussed. I am pleased to say that China always takes a supportive stand. Diplomatic relations have in fact been established between China and Israel, but I feel—and this has been underlined to me—that this will not be at the expense of Chinese-Arab relations. In its dialogue with Israel, China is underlining the importance of achieving peace and stability in the region. I consider this an important matter in the coming stage. [passage omitted]

[Al-Aswad] If we may move to another point that concerns the situation in the Arab world, we ask: Has not the time come for restoring Arab solidarity to its former state?

['Abd-al-Majid] I believe that you, like your colleagues, are aware of my initiative to the Arab foreign ministers meeting in Cairo on 18 April. This issue was discussed then. I believe that there is an understanding and a welcoming of the initiative that aims to effect pan-Arab reconciliation, though this might need some time. The issue is under discussion, and my feeling and that of a large number of the foreign ministers is that there is a willingness to hold this dialogue which might take place very soon. But we also understand some existing issues that we hope to overcome with time because I do believe that the Arabs have to rally regardless of differences in their views.

[Al-Aswad] As you said, you have your concept and specific initiative for ending the inter-Arab differences and have in fact started action to clear the air in preparation for the reconciliation. Is there anything new here?

['Abd-al-Majid] The issue is still under discussion. I have so far received eight replies from a number of Arab leaders. God willing, we hope to receive more replies. We are continuing our efforts to clear the Arab atmosphere.

[Al-Aswad] Regarding the six points proposed in your initiative to clear the Arab atmosphere, are there any necessary conditions for achieving a reconciliation?

['Abd-al-Majid] Let us say that these are fundamental principles that lay down the framework for the proposed initiative. Accepting these principles is essential. We have started the process and we must continue it. We are determined to clear the atmosphere, restore solidarity, and effect a pan-Arab reconciliation. As I said, the reconciliation should be based on frankness. There must be frankness before reconciliation.

[Al-Aswad] We are now between one round of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations and another. In view of your presence in Beijing, how do you think China is viewing this process?

['Abd-al-Majid] This issue was discussed at length in my meeting with the deputy prime minister and foreign minister. China encourages the peace process and is eager to see it continue. I share this view. Yes, there are difficulties and intransigent and rigid Israeli positions, but the Arab side must confront them with determination and Arab coordination. We are eager for peace which is in the interest of everyone.

Islamic Affairs

Shiite World Assembly Issues Resolution

LD2505131493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] At the end of the one-day meeting of the Ahl-e Beyt world assembly in holy Mecca, the participants issued a 14-point resolution in which they announced their loyalty and adherence to the guardian of the Muslim world, his honor Ayatollah Khamene'i, and stressed the need to unite all efforts in implementing the aims of the Islamic revolution.

The political propaganda offensive of the West, including the publication of the offensive book "The Satanic Verses," was severely condemned in the resolution and the participants, while supporting the historic edict of Imam Khomeyni, May He Be Admitted to God's Paradise, stressed that the edict on the apostate Salman Rushdie was unchangeable.

Finally, the resolution stressed the Islamic nature of the land of Palestine and said the only way to liberate Palestine from its usurpers was by holy war and the continuation of the intifadah.

Palestinian Affairs

Leaders Deny Differences Over Peace Talks

NC2505060693 Paris AFP in English 2219 GMT 24 May 93

[Excerpts] Jerusalem, May 24 (AFP)—The leaders of the Palestinian negotiating delegation to the Middle East peace talks on Monday [24 May] denied there were divisions among the negotiators.

"We want to make it clear beyond any doubt that all rumors or reports on divisions or cracks among members of the Palestinian delegation are totally false and groundless," they said, according to a statement released in Arab east Jerusalem.

The statement was made by Faysal al-Husayni, overall head of the Palestinian negotiating team, and Haydar 'Abd-al-Shafi, the head of the team to the bilateral phase of the talks.

Al-Husayni and 'Abd-al-Shafi agreed that only the Palestine Liberation Organization had the authority "to take a decision in the name of the Palestinian people concerning the peace process." [passage omitted]

Al-Husayni said in Amman earlier that Arab parties at the peace talks are to meet in the Jordanian capital on Sunday and then on June 5 to coordinate strategy.

Al-Husayni told AFP that the meeting would be suspended on May 31 for the Muslim holiday of al-Adha and would resume on June 5.

The ninth round of the peace talks ended on May 13 in Washington without agreement, after the United States failed to bridge the gap between the Palestinian and Israeli delegations.

No decision was taken on when to resume the peace talks.

Al-Husayni: Dissenting Delegation Members Should Resign

JN2405183393 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1700 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Irrespective of the Palestinian command's official stands, the statements made and the positions adopted by some senior Palestinian officials on whether to continue the bilateral peace negotiations or not indicate that the Palestinian stand is divided. This division is so apparent that Faysal al-Husayni, the principal negotiator within the Palestinian delegation, confirms the existence of a disagreement within the Palestinian delegation. He affirmed this today when he called on members of the Palestinian delegation who do not support the continuation of the negotiations to resign.

Faysal al-Husayni said: The decision to suspend or not to suspend Palestinian participation in the negotiations is the responsibility of the PLO. Anyone who feels he cannot implement the decision to pursue the negotiations should resign.

Gaza First Concept Called 'Waste of Time'

TA2405061793 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0500 GMT 24 May 93

[Telephone interview with Dr. Nazmi al-Ju'bah, adviser to the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks, by Gay Zohar—live]

[Text] [Zohar] Were you glad or upset upon hearing about the statement to implement autonomy in Gaza first?

[Al-Ju'bah] I was not at all glad. This has been Israel's long-standing position with regard to Gaza. We went to

the peace process in order to talk about all the land occupied in 1967—namely, about UN Resolution 242.

[Zohar] Let us not discuss the entire question of autonomy, but whether it should be implemented in Gaza first.

[Al-Ju'bah] We say it is a waste of time. We must talk about a comprehensive and complete agreement that includes both Gaza and the West Bank. What does starting with Gaza mean? Does it mean that Israelis have more problems there and want to get rid of their problems?

[Zohar] Perhaps it is a warning from Yitzhaq Rabin's associates that if the Palestinians fail to make progress, Israel may ultimately enforce its own solutions because it controls the area.

[Al-Ju'bah] It may very well be a warning—we interpret the closure likewise—about the possibility of one-sided autonomy. We say this will not help,the peace process at all but, rather, will create more problems in a process that is already plagued by quite a few problems.

[Zohar] Sir, thank you very much.

Christopher Urged To Show Compassion for Palestinian View

LD2105231593 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 21 May 93

[Station commentary]

[Excerpts] Brothers, U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher has announced that the U.S. Administration will go ahead with its intensive efforts to help the parties to the negotiations, the Arabs and Israelis. He has reiterated, however, that all parties should show readiness for compromise and see the negotiations as a long process, and that all parties should show a flexible political attitude and abandon their old positions and stances. What Christopher really wanted to say, despite his obscure statement, is that the slowness of the talks might make Washington lose patience with the peace process. [passage omitted]

Christopher was, when he made his statements, repeating what his predecessor James Baker had also reiterated, at a time when Baker was pretending not to be a full partner to the peace talks, but only an intermediary between the parties. Should we then understand from Christopher's statements that the U.S. stances and policies have not changed, and what we are witnessing today is nothing more than a public relations exercise? If the United States was really eager to take part in the negotiations why did she then confine herself, during the three week long talks, to the role of spectator and not make any fresh initiatives to give a new momentum to the peace process, except at the last moment?

A full partner at the negotiations cannot, however, remain neutral; he should take a stance regardless of what others may think. This should be the idea behind Washington's role as a full partner. Is it Christopher's intention to warn the parties to the negotiations that the U.S. Administration will be unable to do more than what it has already done? Such a thing should then lead us to wonder whether the United States is still serious about bringing about settlements or not.

It should not, however, abandon the peace process regardless of all the difficulties. The United States is the only superpower left in the world, and it should, therefore, play a major role in resolving regional hotbeds of tension.

Moreover, it will not be in the United States' interest to relinquish its duties toward the peace process in the Middle East region. The U.S. Administration is not required to come up with miracles; it should only respect international legitimacy and compel all parties to implement UN Security Council resolutions. This is what the United States has always called for; or international legitimacy loses its legitimacy when it becomes necessary to ask Israel to comply!

If Christopher's statements were, however, about the need to create a new atmosphere, the seriousness of the negotiations, and how to convince the region's peoples of the importance of the negotiations, then we have one question that we would like Christopher to answer: What can the Palestinian negotiator tell a besieged people who are on the brink of starvation, who are the subject of daily painful measures, and who are barred from entering Arab Jerusalem, which has been isolated? Has Christopher asked himself such a question? We would not like to wonder here whether Christopher would object to such measures, which might kill once and for all the peace process. We feel very pained and distressed whenever the U.S. threatens to wash their hands of Jesus' blood and abandon their responsibilities in the region. However, one should remember that duplicity and double standards are not something new in America's policies!

Bethlehem Mayor on Economic Conditions, Peace Process

NC2405071993 Cairo Voice of the Arabs in Arabic 0510 GMT 24 May 93

[Interview with Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Furayj, in Jerusalem, by Ramadan Husayn, in Cairo, on the "Dialogue From Afar" Program; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Husayn] We begin the discussion with the current situation in the occupied Arab territories, especially after the recent developments and the ninth round of the Arab-Israeli peace talks.

[Furayj] The Israeli Government's decision to close the borders between the occupied territories and Arab Jerusalem and some (?parts) of Palestine has created very harsh economic difficulties. Unemployment among

Arab workers in the occupied territories is approximately 60 percent, the public's purchase rates have plummeted dreadfully, and economic conditions are deteriorating daily. This is in addition to the Army's violent measures and the fall of martyrs and scores of wounded every day while there is no control over Israel's actions.

The closure of Arab Jerusalem in the face of Arab citizens contradicts all Security Council and UN resolutions. Thirdly [as heard], what will be the prospects for the negotiations in light of these wretched and miserable conditions? Citizens in the West Bank and the Strip are frustrated and pessimistic, and few of them are convinced that Israel intends to reach a solution based on international legitimacy and Security Council Resolution 242.

[Husayn] Does this situation mean that there are growing number of Palestinians inside the occupied territories who reject the continuation of the peace process?

[Furayj] Actually there are a considerable number of people who reject the continuation of the peace process. However, in my own personal view as a mayor, the peace process must be pursued and there is no substitute for the peace process. As Palestinians, we should adhere to our agreement to continue the peace process and negotiations no matter how difficult or even impossible the circumstances are. There is no alternative to the peace and negotiations option.

[Husayn] Confederation between the occupied Arab territories and Jordan was raised recently. What is the view on the Palestinian political street inside the occupied territories on this?

[Furayj] The majority of the Palestinian public welcomes and supports a federal or confederal union with Jordan, but this will happen after a Palestinian authority with the right to make an appropriate decision has been established.

[Husayn] How do you assess the Arab-Israeli process so far, especially on the Palestinian track, and do you believe that the next few days will bring something new, especially since a high- level delegation from the U.S. Administration will visit the region?

[Furayj] I believe that practically the next round will make some progress, and that the U.S. delegation's visit to the region in the next days will pave the way for reaching agreement on principles between the Palestinian delegation and Israel.

[Husayn] What is the relationship between the Palestinian intifadah—the courageous intifadah by the Palestinians inside the occupied territories—and the peace process?

[Furayj] (?why) is there an intifadah? The intifadah aims to get rid of the illegal Israeli occupation. The occupied land has the right to use all available means to achieve liberation and independence. I see no objection to continuing the negotiations in light of the current circumstances and the effects of intifadah actions.

[Husayn] Are there any additions or observations you wish to make via the Voice of the Arabs Radio?

[Furayj] I hope that the Arab League will meet as soon as possible to discuss the closure of Arab Jerusalem which I consider as a violation of all UN and Security Council resolutions.

'Arafat Interviewed on Hamas, Peace Talks

NC2505125293 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 22 May 93 p 5

[Interview with PLO Chairman Yasir 'Arafat by Mustafa 'Abdallah in Vienna; date not given]

[Text] ['Abdallah] President 'Arafat, what is your view of Hamas' [Islamic Resistance Movement] attack on you and its refusal to coordinate with the PLO?

['Arafat] We enjoy democracy and anyone has the right to express his opinion in complete freedom. We respect the opinion of the minority, which should at least respect the majority's opinion and decision. We have invited and will invite Hamas to join the Palestinian factions and not to leave the fold.

Through this interview, I tell them that it is unacceptable to raise Iran's and other flags bearing in mind that the Palestinian flag, for example, was not raised over Marj al-Zuhur [site of Palestinian deportees camp in south Lebanon]. Yet we consider their case as an issue with serious dimensions and as a mass crime against the Geneva Convention being perpetrated by Israel, not against this or that side but against them as Palestinians who form part of the Palestinian people.

['Abdallah] Since you mentioned raising the Iranian flag, what is the truth of the relationship between Hamas and Iran?

['Arafat] One element of the relationship is enough to conclude sufficient details. The basic part of Hamas' funds is provided generously by Iran. Besides, Iran trains numerous Hamas members and the entire world is not unaware that Iran supports terrorism. We denounce its interference in the internal affairs of many of the region's countries as we denounce its exporting terrorism.

['Abdallah] Despite differences among the negotiating delegations at the peace talks, there are influential international parties still optimistic about making peace. How do you view this?

['Arafat] I regret to announce that the latest round did not satisfy any of the Arab sides at all. This was apparent in the statement released by the heads of the four Arab delegations—the Lebanese, Syrian, Jordanian, and Palestinian delegations—at the end of that round. Its outcome fell far short of expectations despite some words

and phrases we heard during the ninth round of the talks and despite some encouraging methods the United States tried to publicize. As known, the ninth round did not reach the expected or required level.

Do not forget that the U.S. Administration claimed that agreement would be reached between the Israeli and the Arab sides last Friday [14 May], but regrettably there has been no such agreement.

['Abdallah] How do you view the recent differences in Israel between Peres and Rabin over the issue of Palestinian autonomy?

['Arafat] It is clear that there are differences inside the Israeli Government because Yitzhaq Rabin is still thinking with the mentality of [former Prime Minister] Shamir. For example, he has not fulfilled any of the promises he made to the United States before the ninth round of talks started. Some trivial points that do not constitute positive developments have been implemented, such as the return of 30 people and adding 25 people to the 100 deportees allowed to return from Marj al-Zuhur.

Despite the importance of the principle, the number is very small because the actual number of previous deportees is 6,700. This action by the Israeli side was a slap in the face to the U.S. mediator and principal partner in the negotiations. In addition, Rabin has made several commitments he has not implemented. These include lifting the siege imposed on Jerusalem and dealing with the famine facing Gaza and the deteriorating economic situation inside the West Bank. He declared that Gaza and the West Bank are military zones where no one can enter or leave, and the Israeli army has organized violence, repression, persecution, and official terrorism.

Betzelem, the Jewish human rights organization, has published a statement that said last month was the bloodiest one since the start of the intifadah. I want to ask how this can happen when it was the month of the peace negotiations?

Therefore, there is a "Rabinist" stand that voices some resonant theoretical expressions but the reality is a "Likudist" one that wants to gain time and dreams of eliminating the intifadah with an iron fist, more death, collective and random detention, more injuries, and the demolition of houses. As you know, Rabin has sent four divisions to the West Bank and Gaza in an attempt to suppress the intifadah. But I tell him that this intifadah will continue, wave after wave, until the Palestinian flag is hoisted, God willing, over the walls of Jerusalem and its minarets and churches.

['Abdallah] Since you spoke about hoisting the Palestinian flag over Jerusalem, what is your concept of the Palestinian state and its relations with Israel?

['Arafat] I hope that it will be similar in future to how Egypt is now after Camp David. Don't forget that the Palestinian state is rich with immense scientific resources among the Palestinian people and hopes to take its place within the united Arab family and thus contribute to building the future of our Arab nation so that we can stand fast against the challenges of the new world order. Against these challenges, the Arabs have to be or not to be.

['Abdallah] Can you point to some of the issues raised during your 20-minute closed session with the Austrian chancellor?

['Arafat] (after silence and deep thought) I discussed with the Austrian chancellor the means of giving impetus to the peace process so as to establish a just, comprehensive, and real peace in the Middle East.

['Abdallah] You have met with an Israeli delegation made up of 16 journalists, who coincidentally happen to be in the same hotel with you during your visit to Austria. How do you assess this meeting?

['Arafat] I am not afraid to face the Israeli press. I neither suffer from an inferiority complex nor do I feel weak on such occasions. I told them what I would like to say to the Israeli people: If they want to make peace, it cannot be made through procrastination, denying the others' rights, usurping land, and using military force. In this regard, I reminded them that the greatest military power in the world was in the former Soviet Union. But the Soviet Union ended and the Berlin wall collapsed. Let them not think that if they have atomic bombs and nuclear weapons they can obtain security. This can never happen. They can obtain security through peace, the just peace. There can be no peace or stability in the region through the usurpation of the national inalienable rights of the Palestinian people, which have been acknowledged by the United Nations and international law and resolutions. We are not asking for the impossible; we are only asking for peace.

['Abdallah] Do you have any plans to bring views closer that would establish a just peace and would, consequently, achieve security and stability in the region?

['Arafat] I repeat what President Bush said and what Egypt is demanding, namely land for peace and implementing Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. This would mean withdrawal from all the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, foremost being Jerusalem, and recognition of the national, political, and legitimate rights of the Palestinian people in accordance with international legitimacy. This would achieve security for everyone in the region.

It is strange that Israel does not want to implement the U.S. peace plan because it feels it is the spoiled child of the United States. Israel is indeed the corrupt and corrupting son based on procrastination.

['Abdallah] Do you mean here U.S. procrastination?

['Arafat] The coming days will answer whether or not there is U.S. procrastination. This challenge is not imposed on us alone. It is also imposed on the U.S.

Administration, which wants to play the role of the full partner. Is it or is it not an impartial partner? This will be proved in the coming days. The U.S. Administration has asked us to wait for the passage of the first 100 days. We waited and the 100 days and even more passed and we are still waiting. As the saying goes "the proof is in the pudding."

['Abdallah] What do you think of the occasional excessiveness that some Palestinians resort to despite Egypt's efforts for the sake of the Palestinian issue?

['Arafat] There is not a single Palestinian who can encroach on Egypt. Egypt's role is clear to the whole world and is a subject of appreciation. Egypt is a full partner with the Palestinians in the peace process. We are proud of Egypt and we appreciate its role and its efforts in service of the Palestinian issue. We are very grateful for President Mubarak's continued efforts to establish a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East. We must not forget that our negotiating team is assisted by the two best Egyptian political experts, Ambassador Tahir Shash and Dr. 'Izzat 'Abd-al- Latif. We appreciate and respect their expertise, from which we benefit greatly in arranging our cards before we submit them to the Israeli side.

PLO To Move Cadres From Tunisia to Libya

LD2205003893 Rabat Moroccan Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 2300 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] Official Palestinian sources announced the PLO decision to transfer a number of its cadres from Tunisia to Libya. The decision was made and signed by President Yasir 'Arafat on 9 May to take effect immediately.

The Palestinian leadership is in Tunisia after it moved from the Lebanese capital in 1982 following the Israeli invasion of Lebanon. The Palestinian leadership cadres in the Tunisian capital number between 2000 and 3000 persons.

Transfer Called 'Ordinary' Decision

JN2205134693 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 22 May 93

[Muhammad Kurayshan dispatch from Tunis]

[Text] A leading Palestinian source has asserted that the PLO's plan to send some of its personnel working in Tunis to reside in a camp in the Libyan desert area of Sarah near the border with Chad is a very ordinary measure. According to him, two years ago the PLO took a similar measure to move some of its fighters for organizational and training purposes.

The Palestinian leader, who preferred anonymity, revealed that the measure, scheduled to start next month, applies to people in Tunis who are considered nonessential in their departments.

The Palestinian official did not say if this measure is connected with the difficult financial circumstances the PLO has been facing since the Gulf war. Nor did he say how many people are involved, saying only that the number is not constant and may increase or decrease. He also said he is surprised that some quarters are showing interest in the decision, adding that some people are trying to exaggerate it as part of what he called psychological warfare against the Palestinians.

We have learned that a Palestinian delegation has left Tunisia for Libya to arrange for that operation and to study accommodation conditions.

PLO Condemns Hamas Attack on University Leader

LD2305205193 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1800 GMT 23 May 93

[Excerpts] An official PLO source has stated the following: [passage omitted] Yesterday morning, 22 May, three masked men attempted to hurl a Molotov cocktail at the home of 'Arif al-Ja'abari, vice chairman of al-Khalil University for Administrative Affairs. One of the attackers who was arrested confessed to belonging to the Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement], and said he carried out his act because brother al-Ja'abari belonged to the PLO.

After studying the dimensions of this dangerous phenomenon which is moved by the hands of agents who serve the interests of occupation, the PLO states the following:

1. It condemns and denounces this phenomenon which would result in sedition and fragmentation between the sons of the one people and the one kinsfolk at a time we are in dire need of unity of position and statements.

2. The PLO holds totally responsible all those who back these acts, and will oppose resorting to violence and terrorism to settle trade union and political conflicts. We will defend our national unity and our democracy on which we pride ourselves before the world, and we will work to provide security and tranquillity and peace for all citizens and their possessions.

3. It urges all those with influence, benevolent men, and those seeking reform in al-Khalil province to nip this sedition in the bud while praying to God Almightly to give us guidance and serve the interest of our nation and our people, our intifadah, and our struggle. [passage omitted]

Fatah Leaflet Urges 1 Monthly Strike Day

TA2305132793 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 23 May 93 p 2

[ITIM report]

[Text] A Fatah leaflet issued yesterday in the Gaza Strip called for limiting business and general strikes in the

territories to one day a month in place of the many strikes ordered by the various organizations. The recommended strike day is 9th of the month, intifadah day according to Fatah.

The handbill called on organizations and people of means to help the poor, who suffer from the economic situation, with food and money and urged the Palestinian public to unite in the current situation.

On the issue of unity, the leaflet referred to negotiations among the various organizations in the territories on the draft of a Palestinian national agreement on matters affecting daily life in the territories. It said that Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement] is a partner in the negotiations.

Among the issues being discussed, according to the leaflet, is the occurrence of murders among Palestinians. The leaflet called for a stop to the wave of murders, which are being carried out by anybody who wants to and has weapons. "Kidnapings, interrogations, or murders must be carried out only according to PLO decisions and not on a local level by the head of this or that group," it said.

The leaflet also called for a stop to murders near locations of public importance, such as mosques, schools, and hospitals, and for a stop to murders in the homes of suspects.

It urged maintaining educational levels by ceasing disturbances near schools and by not becoming involved in high school end-of-year examinations. Masked men interfered in the examinations by handing the students material. The matriculation results of students from the territories therefore became suspect and were not accepted by universities in the Arab states.

The leaflet also urged not painting graffiti in public places such as schools, mosques, and hospitals with the aim of leaving these places outside the intifadah.

In a leaflet published during the weekend in Jerusalem and Ramallah and in advertisements in the East Jerusalem press, West Bank residents were told not to come to Friday prayers in Jerusalem although the Civil Administration was permitting them to do so for the first time since the imposition of the closure. The advertisements said they should not play into the hands of the Israeli authorities and demanded that the closure be lifted entirely and not by bits.

Red Cross President Confers With Palestinians on Closure

TA2205190393 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Hebrew 1800 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] The president of the International Red Cross [IRC] will confer on 23 May with the prime minister to discuss the situation in the territories. The IRC president conferred in Jerusalem today with Palestinian leaders, who complained to him about what they called the desperate economic plight in the territories. Our correspondent Hezi Maqlef:

[Begin recording] [Maqlef] IRC President Cornelio Sommaruga's meeting with the Palestinians was aimed at observing close up the problems created by the closure of the territories. Earlier, in the morning, the IRC representative met with the heads of the Palestinian Red Crescent, many of whose workers have recently been fired due to the organization's financial strife, and others have not been paid their salaries for months. The Palestinian representatives mainly stressed in their meeting the issue of human rights in the territories.

[Sari Nusaybah, Bi'r Zayt University professor, in English] We are hoping to discuss with him the various problems we face here in the occupied territories, what we perceive to be the violations of human rights. We are going to discuss several issues with him, including deportations, of course, but also the question of the prisoners, the issue we have at the moment, which is the separation of East Jerusalem from the rest of the occupied territories, the closure, etc.

[Maqlef] Opponents of the peace process, like 'Ali Abu-Hilal, a Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine supporter, as well as supporters of the process, including members and advisers to the Palestinian peace delegation, were invited to the IRC offices in East Jerusalem's al-Shaykh Jarrah neighborhood. Will the Palestinian delegation return to the peace negotiations in Washington? [last sentence in English]

[Nusaybah, in English] This is something that has to do with the decision which will be taken by the Palestinian leadership, the PLO. They have to look into the proceedings of the negotiations, the various trends we have come to, what is expected, and on that basis we will decide. At the moment, I think the matter is under study.

[Maqlef] The IRC president is due to meet tomorrow with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin. The Palestinians hope that Sommaruga will make him aware of the hardship suffered by the inhabitants of the territories during the closure. [end recording]

'Arafat Receives Belgian Socialist Party Member, Envoy

LD2205212893 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Yesterday evening, Brother Abu-'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat] received Annmarie Leysen, member of the Belgian Socialist Party, and Guido Quarto, Belgian ambassador to Tunisia [name and title as heard].

During the meeting, President Abu 'Ammar reviewed the latest political developments in the Middle East area, the latest developments in the peace process, and the efforts made to push the process forward—particularly following the Israeli intransigence and their evasion of the commitment to the bases and the continuity of the peace process. He also reviewed the deteriorating conditions inside the occupied Palestinian territories as a result of the Israeli Government policy, which breaches all the international norms and charters.

Egypt

Four Tourists Injured in 'Regrettable' Incident

NC2505102593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0956 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Aswan, 25 May (MENA)—A regrettable incident took place today on the Aswan-Abu Sunbul road when guards in the area opened fire on a tourist bus after its driver refused to obey the guards' order to stop.

The incident resulted in the wounding of four tourists, three Australians and a British female tourist.

The tourist bus, carrying 16 tourists from various nations, was en route from Aswan to Abu Sunbul. Around 50 km from Aswan, a guard saw the bus and signalled to the driver to stop. When the latter refused to do so and continued driving, the soldier fired on him.

The four injured tourists were taken to the Aswan Public Hospital for treatment. Hospital sources said that their injuries were not serious.

Security officers went to the scene of the incident and began their investigations.

Injured Evacuated to Cairo

NC2505103093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1001 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Aswan, 25 May (MENA)—A private plane left Aswan airport at noon today carrying the foreign tourists who were injured when fire was opened mistakenly on the bus carrying them on the Aswan-Abu Sunbul road today.

A medical team from the Armed Forces will be on hand at Cairo airport to examine them and provide them with the necessary urgent medical aid. They are expected to be taken to one of the military hospitals in Cairo.

Three Killed in Clash With Police in Asyut

NC2405172693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1650 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Asyut, 24 May (MENA)—Three people were killed in Abnub in the Asyut Governorate today during a clash with a police force, which launched an early campaign in the area to seize unlicensed arms. The three people opened fire on the police force as soon as it approached the area, forcing it to return the fire. A police force earlier launched a campaign in search for unlicensed arms.

Police Arrest 92 for Suspected Islamic Group Ties

NC2505065393 Paris AFP in English 0105 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Cairo, May 25 (AFP)—Ninety-two people suspected of having links with the clandestine Muslim fundamentalist movement al- Jama'ah al-Islamiyah [Islamic Group] were arrested Monday [24 May], police said.

Seventy-five were arrested in Cairo, while 17 were arrested in al-Qalyubiya province, 20 kilometres (12 miles) north of the Egyptian capital, police said.

Meanwhile bomb disposal experts defused two explosive devices found in the street at the Red Sea resort of al-Ghardaqah.

A car-bomb explosion in central Cairo Friday killed seven people and wounded 20, and four other explosive devices were defused Saturday in Cairo and at Damietta, 160 kilometres (110 miles) north of the capital.

According to sources close to the security services, the bombs were the work of the fundamentalists and indicated a new offensive from them.

Monday's arrests took the number of suspected fundamentalists detained since Friday's bomb attack to 200.

Between 1,500 and 2,000 Islamic fundamentalists are currently under arrest in Egypt, according to official figures.

Three people were killed and two wounded Monday near the southern Egyptian town of Asyut during a clash with police who were searching for illegal arms, police said earlier.

The clash occurred in Abnub, ten kilometers (six miles) north of Asyut.

On Saturday, four people were killed in Asyut province in a settling of scores.

Three Thousand Demonstrate To Fight in Bosnia

NC2505062293 Paris AFP in English 0027 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Alexandria, Egypt, May 25 (AFP)—Some 3,000 people, most of them Islamic fundamentalists, demonstrated in Alexandria on Monday [24 May] demanding the right to go and fight in Bosnia- Herzegovina alongside the Muslims.

They carried placards calling on the Egyptian government to "open the door for a Jihad (Islamic holy war)" and to supply arms to the Bosnian Muslims.

The demonstrators criticised the leaders of Arab and Islamic countries for failing to come to the aid of the Bosnian government in the face of Serb aggression.

Trial of Minister's Attackers Resumes 22 May

NC2205193693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1543 GMT 22 May 93

[Excerpts] Cairo, 22 May (MENA)—The High Military Court convened today under Major General Ahmad

'Abdallah to examine the case of the attempt to assassinate Information Minister Safwat al- Sharif and carry out other terrorist crimes. Fourteen defendants, including four who are on the run, are on trial.

Maj. Gen. Ahmad 'Abdallah said at the outset of the six-hour session that the defendants were barred from the court because they do not want to keep calm. He said that they will be allowed to attend when they behave well. [passage omitted]

The court decided to resume its session tomorrow morning to listen to the defense.

Verdict Due 27 May

NC2305161293 Paris AFP in English 1525 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Cairo, May 23 (AFP)—The High Military Court will issue a verdict Thursday in the trial of 14 militants accused of attempting to assassinate Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif, a spokesman said Sunday.

If convicted, the 14, including four who are on the run, could be sentenced to death. The military prosecutor has already called for capital punishment.

The defendants are also accused of bombings at tourist sites and killing a police officer in March.

For the second consecutive day on Sunday the court heard defense lawyers plead the cases of their clients for more than four hours.

The trial opened May 8 at a military court, which decides more quickly and hands down harsher sentences than civilian ones.

President Husni Mubarak, resorting to emergency laws in force since 1981, last year ordered the transfer of the trials of Muslim militants to military courts.

Sixteen death sentences have been passed by the High Military Court, seven in absentia, but none has been carried out.

More than 150 people have died since Muslim militants launched a violent campaign in March 1992 to overthrow Mubarak's secular government.

Lawyers Call for Defendants' Release

NC2305195993 Paris AFP in English 1926 GMT 23 May 93

[Report by Lamia Radi]

[Text] Cairo, May 23 (AFP)—The High Military Court said Sunday it would issue a verdict Thursday in the trial of 14 militants accused of attempting to assassinate Information Minister Safwat al-Sharif on April 20.

If convicted, the 14, including four who are on the run, could be sentenced to death. The military prosecutor has already called for capital punishment.

But during the last appeal session, the militants' lawyers called for their clients' release, adding that one of the accused men had been tortured into confessing.

'Ali Halawa, a court-appointed lawyer for the main suspect currently standing trial, Hasan 'Abdallah Shalaqani, said his client's confession had been "extracted under torture."

He pointed to contradictions in the confession hearing, where the accused admitted and then denied having received orders by telephone on the assassination bid from Peshawar, Pakistan, the base of Egyptian leaders of the outlawed al-Jama'ah al-Islamiyah, according to security services.

He also noted that the indictment mentioned a type of weapon different from that described by the main prosecution witness, the porter at the minister's house.

The porter had also said that one of the assailants was shot and wounded by the minister's driver but none of the men, arrested a few days after the attack, showed any sign of wounds, the lawyer argued.

The accused "are only scapegoats," he said, "the real culprits are free, but since it concerns an important person, (authorities) had to proceed swiftly."

Relatives of the accused told AFP that despite their apparent courage, the court-appointed attorneys were only puppets made to lend credibility to the court.

To mark their rejection of the lawyers and the court, the accused men turned their backs to the judges and read verses from the Koran during the four-hour session held at a military base 31 kilometers (20 miles) north of Cairo.

At the request of the relatives, the presiding judge, General Ahmad 'Abdallah, allowed the defendants to participate in the session after their families made them promise to remain quiet.

The men, who had insulted the judges and President Husni Mubarak during the previous session, were barred from Saturday's session following orders from the presiding judge.

The men's lawyers, who are convinced that the verdict had already been issued even before the May 8 opening of the trial, have withdrawn and were replaced by court-appointed attorneys, they told AFP.

The 14 are also accused of bombings at tourist sites and killing a police officer in March.

For the second day running the court heard defense lawyers plead their clients' cases for more than four hours.

The men are being tried in a military court, which decides more quickly and hands down harsher sentences than civilian ones.

Mubarak, resorting to emergency laws in force since 1981, last year ordered the transfer of the trials of Muslim militants to military courts.

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Minister on 'Terrorist Plan' To Infiltrate Education

NC2405205693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Education Minister Husayn Kamil Baha'-al-Din has revealed a terrorist plan through which members of the teaching staff at some universities are trying to infiltrate education and corrupt students' minds. He said the extremist elements plan to impose curricula encouraging terrorism and extremism, outside the curricula approved by the ministry. They have printed 150 books calling for extremism and showing the state to have left things out and made amendments and additions to the curricula of religious education, Arabic language, and history. They have also tried to prevent educational and cultural activity within universities and schools, recruiting some students to spread their extremist views.

The education minister appealed to men of religion to confront this ferocious campaign, stressing that the center overseeing educational curricula has amended none. He noted that the center was established in 1990, contrary to the claims that the amendments were made in 1985.

The education minister said the National Democratic Party [NDP] education committee, the Education Ministry, and the state's executive bodies are cooperating to abort the plan. He said these elements will be excluded from the educational institutions.

The minister was speaking during a meeting of the NDP education committee today.

Mubarak: Party, Government Changes 'After July'

NC2405161693 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] In an interview with the newspaper MAYU, President Husni Mubarak said that changes in the government and the [ruling National Democratic] party will take place simultaneously after July.

Mubarak said that Egypt's economic reforms are an object of international praise and have spared Egypt many problems. Unemployment, Mubarak added, was an undesirable byproduct of the economic rehabilitation. Suitable solutions will soon be found for that problem through increased investment and private sector participation in the development program.

His excellency pointed out that Egypt has succeeded in the past 10 years in creating 2 million jobs. This was an impressive achievement, he said, noting that the population increase was also considerable. Mubarak said that terrorist operations are an impediment to the efforts to solve the country's problems, including that of unemployment.

President's Talks in Gulf, Details Viewed

NC2405153293 Beirut BAYRUT AL-MASA' in Arabic 19 May 93 pp 1, 9

[Cairo dispatch]

[Text] President Husni Mubarak's tour of the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] countries revealed several positions. The declared positions dealt with Arab solidarity, post-Gulf war Egyptian-Gulf coordination, and the need to activate the "Damascus Declaration" among the six GCC countries, Egypt, and Syria. Official statements by Egyptian and Gulf officials were reassuring. There were promises by the GCC countries to stimulate the Egyptian economy through investment and aid.

Mubarak's promises involved only pledges to protect security in the Gulf, particularly Saudi Arabia, against any foreign threat. These pledges reached the point of affirming that Egypt will deal with Gulf security on the same footing as Egypt's security. Mubarak carried with him a carefully written analysis on the West's position on Bosnia-Herzegovina and a view of the West's stand on the Iranian- United Arab Emirates [UAE] friction over the islands of Abu Musa, Tunb al-Kubra and Tunb al-Sughra. The Egyptian analysis was based on one crucial question on the possibility of U.S. and Western intervention such as during the Kuwait-Iraq crisis. Since the Egyptian answer to this question was a firm denial, the basis of the Egyptian analysis focused on the so-called Iranian danger and the possible assistance Egypt can give to ward off this danger.

Sources say that on the economic level, Mubarak presented ideas for big projects to transform Sinai into a free zone with almost all Gulf funds. The plan aims to establish well over 100 tourist projects to accommodate 35 million tourists annually. The plan entails sharing Arab and Israeli capitals "before or after peace has been established" so that the possibility of war between the Arabs and Israel would be impossible. This is what Mubarak promised and the return would be a direct economic aid totaling $3 billion annually. UAE President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan promised a larger share of support. The UAE did not want to be linked to Saudi Arabia or the other Gulf countries in the aid program to Egypt, because the ties between Egypt and the UAE will be very distinguished and special in the future as Shaykh Zayid put it.

Gulf states immediately after 'Id al-Adha [the first week of June] to follow up on what Egypt and the Arab Gulf states have agreed.

Mubarak Leaves on 'Short Visit' to Eritrea

NC2505093093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0600 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 25 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak left Cairo for Asmara this morning on a short visit to Eritrea to congratulate that country on its independence.

A number of senior officials are accompanying the president who will return to Cairo tonight.

Returns Home

NC2505114893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1140 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 25 May (MENA)—President Husni Mubarak returned to Cairo from Asmara this afternoon following a several-hour visit to Eritrea. President Mubarak took part in the Eritrean people's celebrations on the declaration of their country's independence.

Musa Comments on Bosnia-Herzegovina 'Strategy'

NC2305104793 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1010 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 23 May (MENA)—Commenting on the strategy for peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina that the United States and its European allies agreed on yesterday, Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa said: I do not think that the Serbs or Croats are prepared to cooperate with this new approach. I do not think that the strategy addresses all the existing problems, Musa said, noting that the fate of the Vance- Owen plan has become uncertain.

The foreign minister expressed fear that the move will lead to perpetuating the current situation. However, he said, if the new agreement produces even a modest improvement in the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, this would be a step forward.

Minister Musa said that the issue is still under study. We cannot define our position on the initiative until we examine its various aspects and gauge the Serbs' willingness to comply with the will of the international community. We also need to see what the UN Security Council decides in this regard.

Foreign Minister on 'Goodwill' Toward Sudan, Talks

NC2305112693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1033 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 23 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa today said that President Husni Mubarak has announced more than once that Egypt is not seeking or planning to have a showdown [sidam] with Sudan. Musa added that Mubarak's statements about the unity of both nations are sufficient to illustrate and emphasize Egyptian goodwill toward Sudan.

Commenting on remarks by Sudanese Foreign Minister Husayn Abu- Salih concerning Hala'ib, Musa said that what the Sudanese minister mentioned goes also for the Egyptians [asasuhu min al-nahiyah al- masriyah mawjud].

Concerning the proposed Jordanian-Palestinian confederation [ittihad kunfidrali], Musa said that it is one of the existing options, but it is too early to comment on it.

Concerning a proposal by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin to hold a referendum in Israel on the land-for-peace principle, Musa said this issue is not open for discussion. Israel, he added, has entered into the peace talks on the basis of the land-for-peace principle. The case is now closed. There have been no talks or consultations with us or any other side concerning this issue, Musa said.

Musa said that consultations still are under way to set the date for the meeting of the five Arab countries concerned with the peace process in Amman, adding that it likely will be held after the 'Id al-Adha holidays [in early June].

Musa Leaves for Eritrean Independence Celebration

NC2305113393 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1035 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 23 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa left Cairo for Eritrea at noon today. He will attend celebrations marking the proclamation of independence and the foundation of the new state of Eritrea, scheduled to be held at midnight tonight.

Musa said upon departing that it is natural for Egypt to join the Eritrean people in their celebrations, which will be attended by a number of fraternal African heads of state.

Egypt will strengthen relations with the emerging state and cooperate with it in all possible fields, he said.

Musa said he will deliver a message from President Husni Mubarak to the Eritrean president and hold talks with members of the Eritrean Government and the new foreign minister.

Comments on Fishing Agreements

NC2305144193 Cairo Arab Republic of Egypt Radio Network in Arabic 1400 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa has stated that Egypt has had contacts with Eritrea to organize the activity of Egyptian fishermen near Eritrean regional waters in the Red Sea. He was speaking today before leaving Cairo for Eritrea to attend celebrations marking the proclamation of independence.

To prevent Egyptian fishermen from trespassing in Eritrean regional waters, work is under way to conclude fishing agreements, guarantee respect for other countries' laws, and avoid threats to Egyptian ships in the oceans and high seas, Musa explained.

Musa noted that Yemen has also expressed a desire to conclude such an agreement with Egypt.

Ties To Be Established

NC2405165893 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1626 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 24 May (MENA)—Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa returned from Asmara to Cairo tonight, following a one-day visit to Eritrea.

Upon his return, Musa said that Egypt and Eritrea will establish diplomatic relations within the next few days. He added that he conveyed a message from President Husni Mubarak to the Eritrean president and delivered a speech on Egypt's behalf at a celebration marking Eritrea's independence.

Musa added that he held talks with the Ethiopian and Djibouti presidents on the situation in the Horn of Africa as well as the OAU summit due to be held in Cairo on 28 June.

Musa announced that the Eritrean president had released all the Egyptian fishing boats detained in Eritrea.

South African Foreign Minister Arrives 24 May

NC2405185093 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1815 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 24 May (MENA)—South Africa's Foreign Minister Roelof F. Botha arrived in Cairo this evening on a three-day visit to Egypt. Botha praised relations between Egypt and South Africa. He said his talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa will cover the situation in South Africa and measures to establish a democratic regime and hold elections with the participation of the various parties.

Botha said the police in South Africa cannot end the violence and indicated that every effort to stop the violence must be intensified.

He said South Africa has received no invitation to attend the African Summit in Cairo next month.

Botha was welcomed on arrival by Assistant Foreign Minister Sa'id Rif'at.

Dutch Foreign Minister Arrives 21 May

NC2105173593 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1610 GMT 21 May 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 21 May (MENA)—Dutch Foreign Minister Peter Kooijmans arrived here this evening on a two-day visit to Egypt. Speaking upon arrival, he said that the purpose of his visit is to resume and consolidate ties between the Netherlands and Egypt and other regional countries following the end of the ninth round of peace talks.

Asked about the role that Europe could play in the coming stage of the negotiations, he said that Europe has a primary role to play, that is, to conduct multilateral contacts and talks. [passage omitted]

Holds Talks With Musa

NC2205140993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 22 May (MENA)—A session of official talks between Egypt and the Netherlands was held today at the Foreign Ministry. The Egyptian side was led by Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa and the Netherlands side by Foreign Minister Peter Kooijmans, who is visiting Cairo.

Musa stated after the two-hour meeting that the talks dealt with several issues, led by the Middle East peace process, the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the situation in Europe, and bilateral relations. He described these talks as useful.

Musa affirmed that there was agreement on all the issues they discussed, particularly on the seriousness of the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and the need for action to stop and condemn Serbian aggression against Bosnia.

Musa said that Egypt hopes the Netherlands and other European countries will exert pressure to stop Serbian aggression against Bosnia and to ensure acceptance of the peace plan and end the division of Bosnia. He added that ethnic cleansing is a serious violation of human rights and international law.

Regarding bilateral relations, Musa said that the two sides agreed to develop their relations and continue contacts between them. He noted that he invited Kooijmans to visit Egypt again, and that the minister invited him to visit his country.

Kooijmans stated that the talks he held with Musa dealt with the serious situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. He affirmed that Europe is working to stop the aggression and solve this problem. He noted that the problem in Bosnia-Herzegovina is different from the problem of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait as the people inside Bosnia are fighting each other. Therefore, the Western states are trying to stop the fighting, maintain the sanctions, establish a secure zone, and find a political solution. He noted that there is now a cease- fire, and hoped that it will hold, because this will give the politicians a chance to find a final solution.

Departs for Damascus

NC2205173693 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1459 GMT 22 May 93

[Excerpt] Cairo, 22 May (MENA)—The Netherlands Foreign Minister Peter Kooijmans left Cairo this evening for Damascus after a one-day visit to Egypt, during which he was received by President Husni Mubarak and held talks with Foreign Minister 'Amr Musa. [passage omitted]

Libya

Al-Qadhdhafi Says Libyans Pioneering New World

LD2405215093 Tripoli Libyan Television Network in Arabic 1930 GMT 24 May 93

[Excerpts] The brother leader of the revolution [al-Qadhdhafi] attended a ceremony at the al-Fatih university [Tripoli] which brought together more than 1,000 of the teaching staff of universities in the Great Jamahiriyah, during which an honorary doctorate was awarded to the brother leader. [applause]

[Unidentified speaker] The Faculty of Economics and Political Science awards a doctorate to the brother leader Dr. Mu'ammar Abu Minyar al-Qadhdhafi [applause] in political and economy sciences. [passage omitted]

[Announcer] At his meeting with these teachers, the brother leader of the revolution affirmed that we are determined to build the international model of the jamahiriy system on Libyan soil, and the grave changes that will occur in this domain will be submitted to the Arab Libyan people at the forthcoming meetings of its [basic] people's congresses.

He also stressed that the cry for freedom has resounded from the Arab Libyan soil, and with it began the call for the realization of the jamahiriy society for which the great Fatah revolution broke out, a society of freedom and emancipation, a society of the masses where man's identity is achieved and his human nature is respected.

The leader pointed out that it is the destiny of the Libyan people to be a pioneer in laying the first corner stone for the building of a new world, the world of the masses, the world of emancipation from the systems of government, ruler and ruled, from the slavery of wages, oppression, and exploitation.

He affirmed that all the world will turn to people's congresses and people's committees, and the movement of peoples will move toward their guide, the Green Book, the prophecies of which are now being realized in the world.

The brother leader urged the university teaching staff and students to take an effective part in the meetings of the people's congresses, which are bracing themselves for their next session, and to help make conscious popular decisions, with the masses of the people's congresses, and put them into practice.

Analyzing the current situation of the Arab nation, the leader said acts of violence in the Arab homeland, from the Ocean to the Gulf, have nothing to do with Islam at all, because there is no dispute about Islamic practices and rules. What is happening is a rebellion against the situation in the Arab world, which is now accused of impotence before the West and before Zionism, against under-development and regionalism, and against our inability to beat any of them from the Ocean to the Gulf.

The brother leader of the revolution stressed that it is the West which stands behind terrorism in the Arab homeland. The West is responsible for this and is openly and officially protecting and financing terrorist leaderships. We should confront and accuse the West of this.

The leader pointed out: If Iran is behind these actions, it means that it is taking orders from the West, and if Sudan is behind what is happening in Egypt, then Sudan is also carrying out the West's orders.

He said Arab regimes, from the Ocean to the Gulf, have begun to pay the price of their policy of banning the literature of revolution, unity, Arab nationalism, and of their enmity toward the jamahiriy idea, the Green Book, the Red Book [of Chairman Mao], and Nasirism in the last years. This gave room, without competition, to the yellow reactionary books, which have produced what is now taking place.

He further said that the Arab citizen cannot applaud Arabs for handing oil to the West, nor can he applaud the silence on the crimes of Zionism, the relinquishing of Palestine, and submission to the Christian Western states. He also cannot applaud those who have committed themselves to the UN Security Council resolutions against the Great Jamahiriyah, and to boycotting their brothers, so long as the Israelis fail to carry out any Security Council resolution, and so long as there is a state exempted from Article 7 [of the UN Charter], no matter what it does to the Arabs.

Chadian Prime Minister, Delegation Depart 21 May

LD2205095693 Tripoli JANA in English 0831 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Tripoli, al-Ma' [May] 22 JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY—Fidele Abdel Karim Moungar, a prime minister of Chad, and the delegation in his company last night left Tripoli after a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah. The prime minister was seen off by the secretary of the General People's Committee and a number of secretaries of the Selective General People's Committee.

The Chadian prime minister made a statement to JANA's correspondent expressing his satisfaction at the result of the visit. He said "I have the great honour to

meet with the brother leader and discuss important issues relating to the future of our two countries and the future of Africa in general. [no closing quotation marks as received]

He added that although the visit was short it gave a great deal of hope for our future relations. I would like my high appreciation and great admiration for the colossal achievements achieved in all fields and I hope that there will be another chance to visit so as to see other achievements which might benefit us in building up our country.

Sudan

Al-Bashir Hails Eritrean Independence

EA2405133593 Khartoum SUNA in English 0925 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Asmera, 24 May (SUNA)—The experience of the two stable years in Eritrea has proved it was a factor of development and [word indistinct] to the Horn of Africa region, asserted the Revolution Command Council (RCC) chairman and premier, Gen 'Umar al- Bashir. This, he said, necessitated endeavouring more efforts to restore security and stability in the area to realize the aspired interests of the people of the area.

Gen al-Bashir, addressing the celebration of Eritrean masses in Asmera marking [the] independence declaration of the state of Eritrea on Sunday [23 May], said the Sudan has been seeking, since the Eritrean people realized their full liberation two years ago, to establish and serve the interests of the two peoples. He pointed out that the Eritrean Interim Government has played an influential role in serving these interests and bilateral relations, along with the major tasks it assumed to constitute for the Eritrean Government.

The RCC chairman explained that the national salvation has made of the Sudanese Eritrean deep-rooted ties the basis for building distinguished relations in the various fields. He affirmed that the Sudanese people have realized sectors of achievements in the spheres of development and social aspects, indicating that efforts are still being exerted through rounds of negotiations to restore peace and national unity in the country.

He congratulated the Eritrean people and leadership, expressed more power and development for Eritrea. The Eritrean celebrations started Sunday evening by officially declaring independence. Popular celebrations, military parades and musical shows went along with the ceremonies. As of 24th May the Eritrean flag was raised as a sign of [the] rebirth of the Eritrean State. Presidents of Ethiopia, Djibouti along with the Sudan participated in the celebrations, besides delegates from more than 20 countries.

Arab People's Forces Delegation Arrives for Talks

EA2405224193 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1548 GMT 24 May 93

[Excerpts] Khartoum, 24 May (SUNA)—A delegation from the Secretariat General of the Conference of Arab People's Forces, led by Sa'd Qasim Hamudi, the conference's secretary general, arrived in Sudan today for a three-day visit. [passage omitted]

The delegation will hold talks with official and popular leaders on the subject of lifting the blockades against Iraq and the Libyan Jamahiriyah, as well as on the restoration of Arab solidarity. The delegation arrived here from Cairo, where it met Dr. Ismat Abd al-Majid, secretary general of the Arab League.

RCC Reviews Cooperation Projects With Libya

EA2405214593 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in English 1500 GMT 24 May 93

[Excerpt] The deputy chairman of the RCC [Revolution Command Council] and deputy prime minister, Major General al-Zubayr Muhammad Salih, chaired at the Council of Ministers' Secretariat General the regular meeting of the council. He reviewed the outcome of the joint Sudanese-Libyan ministerial committee meeting's second sitting, which was held in Sirte municipality in Libya recently. Maj. Gen. Salih pointed out that the meeting had discussed aspects of joint cooperation in the fields of producing improved seeds, agricultural investment, and work for reactivating the sea line between Sudan and Libya. He said agreement was reached on establishing two trade offices in the Sudan and Libya to follow up and coordinate commercial dealings. [passage omitted]

RCC Chairman Briefs Kenyan President

EA2405210093 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Khartoum, 24 May (SUNA)—Lieutenant General 'Umar al- Bashir, chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the Council of Ministers, has sent a letter to Kenyan President Daniel arap Moi. The letter was delivered by Dr. Ali al-Hajj [economic planning minister and spokesman for the government delegation to the Abuja-2 talks]. Dr. Ali al-Hajj told SUNA that he briefed the Kenyan president on what transpired during the Abuja-2 negotiations in the latter's capacity as one of the African presidents concerned about the conflict in the south of Sudan.

Egyptian Embassy 'Center of Intelligence Activity'

EA2305072793 Omdurman Sudan Broadcasting Service Network in Arabic 1900 GMT 21 May 93

[From the press review]

[Text] The first page of AL-INQADH AL-WATANI carried a news report headlined: The Intelligence War.

The report said the Egyptian Embassy in the heart of Khartoum had been turned into a center for intelligence work which threatened national security and the safety of the country's guests, namely foreign ambassadors and diplomats. Statements by the Egyptian agent, Mustafa Miftah, are proof that the Mubarak regime is involved up to its ears, despite its attempts to describe the matter as being far from the truth.

In the context of talk about the intelligence war being carried out by the Mubarak regime against Sudan, AL-INQADH AL-WATANI hailed the security organs which, by exposing the plot, have cut off the road to the Egyptian regime and the plot's devisers. The Egyptian Embassy, which was understood to be calling for cohesion and linkage and exchange of benefits has turned, by this role, into a breeding ground for the weak-hearted. It neither observed the decency of hospitality nor the requirements of diplomatic convention.

However, its sinful design will only increase the people of Sudan's resolve, determination, and confidence to cut off the road, whatever the challenges and intrigues.

The role played by the Egyptian Embassy here must remind us of another role played in Nigeria, as the special round of peace discussions there was also not spared from the conspiracies. For the Egyptian ambassador left his place of residence, and came down to where the rebellion's delegation was, naturally to hamper the peace efforts.

SPLA's Garang on Recent, Upcoming Talks

AB2205110093 London BBC World Service in English 1705 GMT 21 May 93

[From the "Focus on Africa" program]

[Text] When the Sudan peace talks in Abuja broke up this week, it seemed none of the fundamental differences between the Khartoum Government and SPLA [Sudanese People's Liberation Army] rebels had been resolved: Among them, the future of Shari'ah law and whether Sudan should be a unitary, federal, or confederal state, but another meeting is scheduled for 19th of next month. SPLA leader, John Garang, is in London, and Robin White asked him what was going to be going on between now and that next meeting:

[Garang] Well, we have agreed to a continuation of the cease- fire. The Nigerians called for a recess, for an adjournment so that the two delegations would go and consult with their principals. So, during the one month, I presume that the two sides will be consulting with their principals and discussing among themselves. We will, in the SPLA, be briefing our rank and file, southern Sudanese, Sudanese everywhere, about what went on in Abuja during the last four weeks.

[White] Presumably, a good deal of pressure will now be applied on the two parties. I should imagine a good deal of pressure is going to be put on you, perhaps from the Kenyan Government, perhaps from the Ugandan Government, perhaps from the British Government. I mean, do you expect these pressures to be brought to bear on you now?

[Garang] On us, there is no pressure that we expect because we have nothing to give. It is the Sudan Government that has all the cards. They are the ones that insist on Shari'ah. Our position is clear that as to the southern part of the country, the issue of Shari'ah does not arise, so I do not expect pressures on us because there is nothing that we are refusing. We have accepted to talk. We are talking with seriousness. I expect that it is Khartoum that should be pressured to see sense.

[White] I cannot believe that there are not pressures on you too. I cannot believe that the Kenyan Government is not putting pressure on you.

[Garang] What kind of pressures?

[White] I do not know. I am asking. Are they not putting pressure on you....

[Garang, interrupting] I am not feeling them. That is why I am asking.

[White] What about the Ugandan Government? Are the Ugandans not putting pressure on you?

[Garang] Nobody really has pressures to make on us, because we get nothing from anybody, so I do not expect pressures to be made on us.

[White] You are saying nobody is helping you, at all, with your struggle?

[Garang] Except [Lieutenant-Colonel al-] Bashir.

[White] How is he helping you?

[Garang] From time to time, we capture logistics from him; so he gets from somewhere, we get from him. He is our biggest quartermaster general.

[White] What about the pressures from your own people to settle? Your own people who are suffering so much now.

[Garang] Oh certainly, the Sudanese people, south and north, are desirous for peace. They want peace. That, yes. There is a pressure that there must be a peaceful settlement to the conflict on both us and the government.

[White] Do you not think that the ordinary Sudanese people are fed up with this war? They want it over, and they would like you to settle virtually at any price?

[Garang] Not at any price, we are on record of saying that a bad peace is worse than war. [end recording]

Garang Forces Accused of Cease-Fire Violation

EA2405073093 Khartoum SUNA in English 1620 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Khartoum, 23 May—Official spokesman of the Armed Forces, Maj-Gen Muhammad 'Abdallah Uwaydah has asserted, in a statement, here Sunday [23 May] that the rebel Garang's forces have violated the declared cease-fire agreement following the Abuja- 2 peace talks.

He explained to SUNA that the rebels on May 18th morning laid a number of mines before a patrol of the Armed Forces at Juba-Yei road, adding that two of the mines bombed and caused destruction of two vehicles, killed one soldier and injured others.

A soldier was killed and others injured at Luka, Equatoria State, on May 20th night in an attack by the rebels, he said. The Armed Forces spokesman went on to say that the Armed Forces had aborted one-hour ambush at Luka prepared by the outlaws with the aim of confusion.

The violation of the cease-fire by the rebellion movement, Maj- Gen Uwaydah said it apparently explained discredibility [words indistinct]. He affirmed that the Armed Forces are in full readiness to confront any aggressive attempt by the outlaws to keep lives of our fighters and our innocent citizens. The Armed Forces are committed to what has been agreed on before and after Abuja-2 which Garang's faction had violated in several areas, he concluded.

Western Sahara

Leader Interviewed on Local Referendum, UN

LD2205152893 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1217 GMT 22 May 93

["Exclusive" interview with Saharan "President" Mohamed Abdelaziz by Noureddine Mossadek, correspondent in "the liberated Saharan territories" on 20 May; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpts] [Mossadek] [passage omitted] Mr. President, regarding the peace plan, the [Spanish] newspaper DIARIO 16 said last February that the main problem [obstructing the plan] emerged when former UN Secretary General Javier Peres de Cuellar submitted an astonishing report to the [UN] Security Council in December 1991 in which he attempted to change what had been decided regarding the referendum by adopting Moroccan proposals.

[Abdelaziz] In reality, the peace plan is an integral whole. The original peace plan, (?which is based on) [UN Security Council] Resolution 690, provided a final decision on the issue of voters. It stressed the need to count the number of voters in the Western Sahara referendum on the basis of the Spanish census of 1974. The strong element in this plan is that the two sides of the dispute have endorsed it; the Moroccan Government and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Saquia El Hamra and Rio de Oro [Polisario] have endorsed the plan. The UN Security Council has also endorsed it unanimously. [passage omitted]

Following debate and an attempt to impose the fait accompli of the Moroccan electoral registers, the criteria which appeared in the report of former Secretary General Peres de Cuellar emerged. On scrutiny, one finds that those criteria were devised, worked out, and highlighted in order to include 160,000 Moroccans who bore no relation to Western Sahara or to the Spanish census [of 1974]. Therefore, such action undertaken by the Moroccan Government and somehow adopted by the former UN secretary general in his report of December 1991 dealt a strong blow to the UN peace plan.

[Mossadek] Hence the appointment of Peres de Cuellar as the head of Omnium [Nord Africain] raised questions?

[Abdelaziz] Definitely, particularly because MAP was the first to announce the news. We do not have precise information, but foreign countries have not kept away from Morocco or its institutions such as Omnium Nord Africain, which is owned by the Moroccan Crown. [passage omitted]

[Mossadek] Your Excellency, may I ask you penultimate question? The Security Council resolution stipulates that political and economic sanctions should be taken against either side which tries to deviate from the peace plan framework, do you think the situation warrants such measures or not?

[Abdelaziz] The latest Security Council resolution, which was passed in early March 93, has given a three-month respite; it has stipulated the setting up of a committee to define [Saharan] identity in the field and on the basis of the Spanish lists of 1974. [passage omitted]

I think that if Morocco's stubbornness continues—it is aimed at rigging the outcome of the referendum in Western Sahara and diverting the peace plan, i.e. by organizing a referendum within the framework the Saharan people's self determination, to an international conspiracy being hatched in the UN's name against the Saharan people's inalienable rights—then the UN and the Security Council must make Morocco face the reality and take all means against it, including political leverage and economic sanctions, to make it respect UN resolutions and give the Saharan people an opportunity to freely express their will for self-determination under the auspices of the UN and the OAU.

[Mossadek] Your Excellency, may I ask you one last question? What are the possibilities of a meeting with [King] Hassan, and under whose mediation would it take place? What would be the repercussions of such a direct meeting, in your opinion?

[Abdelaziz] As far as we concerned, we have always believed that a solution for political problems of this kind requires political will from both belligerent sides. The most important criterion for measuring the sincerity and political will for a solution would be the two sides' willingness to sit down at one table, face to face, in order to try to find a solution to their differences. That is why we have always believed—and still believe—that negotiations and dialogue are the main thing.

However, despite the existence of a peace plan, which has resolved a great number of differences and which means that the UN has shouldered the responsibility of organizing a referendum, there are still two major things, I think, on which direct dialogue can be held within the framework of the peace plan and under the aegis of the UN. Such a dialogue would certainly help resolve these two problems.

The first problem is how to resolve the dispute over the number of those eligible to vote, which has so far thwarted the holding of the referendum and the implementation of the [peace] plan.

The second problem, which is really the main one, is how to create some kind of understanding and some kind of [new] psychological conditions between the two sides, which have been fighting each other for the last 18 years. This makes it very difficult for them to go to a referendum as belligerent sides, each side sitting on the other side of the fence.

Therefore, I believe that a direct meeting and dialogue under the auspices of the UN and within the framework of the peace plan would be constructive. As far as we concerned, we are fully prepared to start a dialogue with the Kingdom of Morocco. [passage omitted]

UN Approach to Western Sahara Questionable

LD2105152093 Tehran IRNA in English 1339 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] London, May 21, IRNA—Time is running out for Western Sahara and Morocco should be told by the Security Council not to delay the process of allowing the Sahrawi people to decide their own future by fixing a specific date for a referendum, says a British agency.

The UK United Nations Association believes that the Security Council approach to the issue of Western Sahara casts doubts upon its honesty and has allowed continuing manipulation of the situation by what it calls Morocco's "less than democratic feudal monarch."

Fears that the former Spanish colony will be absorbed by Morocco with the complicity of the UN comes as the deadline set for holding a referendum persists in being extended amid reports of random and systematic deportation of the indigenous Sahrawi people.

Director of the London-based UN Association, Malcolm Harper, said Friday the silence in the Security Council had been "deafening" as secretary general, Butrus Butrus Ghali was being requested to produce more and more reports on other issues taking precedence.

What had never been more urgent, he said in a letter to the GUARDIAN newspaper, was for "effective council action" and that Morocco should be told the referendum will be held on a specific date and voters recognized by a 1974 referendum would be eligible.

Compliance would be required by both parties, Harper specified, and "any misbehavior will be punishable. The UN should also be willing to continue with the presence of its observer mission after the referendum if required by the winners."

The UN Association as an independent lobbying group is fully supportive of utilizing the role of the United Nations in meeting its original charter to resolve world disputes impartially.

In its latest resolution on Western Sahara in March, the Security Council again extended the deadline for the referendum to the end of this year. Initially it had been set for early 1992.

Butrus Ghali was also asked to pursue talks with both sides on a compromise solution to the problem of voting criteria, which was previously based on the 1974 census. He was requested to report back by the end of May, but reports suggest this is likely to be delayed.

Dr. Keith Lomax, who has visited Sahrawi refugee camps in south Algeria, believes the UN's declared aim to hold a referendum will only succeed, if all governments concerned in implementing the international will to permit self-determination put pressure on Morocco.

With regard to Britain, which has supported the UN plan, he suggested that it should be prepared to back its words by considering a boycott of Moroccan goods.

Moroccan Troops Arrest 200 Saharans 20 May

LD2105164393 Algiers Radio Algiers Network in Arabic 1130 GMT 21 May 93

[Excerpt] Saharan President Mohamed Abdelaziz this morning held a news conference attended by the international press. Abdelaziz talked about developments of the Saharan problem. Included in these developments, the Saharan president revealed two important issues that we review in the radio correspondent Noureddine M'sadek's dispatch.

[Begin M'sadek recording] During this news conference, Saharan President Mohamed Abdelaziz revealed that on the night of 20 May Moroccan troops carried out arrests among Saharans in the Laayoune, following publication

of leaflets that were described as inciting and the raising of Saharan flags. The operation was vehemently denounced by the Saharan president who addressed an urgent call to the UN Security Council to intervene to put an end to these practices.

On the other hand, the Saharan president estimated that 200 Saharan captives were detained by Moroccan authorities, and despite International Red Cross appeals the fate of the captives is difficult to know, the Saharan president said. Occasionally, the Saharan president said, we receive information about those captives through special intermediaries, and they suffer severe torture.

Along with the announcement of these two pivotal points, the Saharan president called for the occupied Saharan territories to be opened to the world press and to monitoring organizations, of which the United Nations is at the forefront. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Bahrain

Leaders Confer With Iran's Velayati

JN2405130193 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1005 GMT 24 May 93

[Excerpt] Manama, 24 May (WAKH)—Amir of Bahrain His Highness Shaykh 'Isa Bin-Salman Al Khalifah and Bahraini Prime Minister His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Salman Al Khalifah today received Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati and his accompanying delegation on the occasion of his visit to the country. During the meeting, Velayati conveyed the greetings of Iranian President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani to both their highnesses the amir and the prime minister.

The two sides held a comprehensive overview of current developments in the region and in the Islamic world. They exchanged viewpoints on issues of common interest and discussed means to reinforce prospects of bilateral cooperation in various fields as an expression of the good relations between Bahrain and Iran and their peoples. [passage omitted]

Kuwait

Iranian Infiltration Poses Threat to Security

PM2505092893 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 22 May 93 p 4

[Report by Ghunaym Muhammad al-Mutayri: "Iranian Infiltrators in Kuwait Include Terrorist Elements"]

[Excerpt] Kuwait—'Abbas Munawir, chairman of the Kuwaiti National Assembly Defense and Internal Affairs Committee, has revealed that there is increasing Iranian infiltration into Kuwaiti territory and that this now poses a threat to Kuwait's safety and security.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, he said that the Iranian infiltration is something that has been going on for a very long time and that the reason is the bad living conditions that the Iranians try to escape. The new and serious development is that among the infiltrating groups, most of whom enter the country illegally in search of work and subsistence, some terrorist elements have been caught. The aim of these elements is to spread terror and anarchy in Kuwait.

Asked about the measures the National Assembly intends to take in this connection, particularly because the captured terrorist groups have confirmed that Kuwait's security and stability are the target, 'Abbas Munawir said that, regrettably, the National Assembly is currently focusing on issues quite remote from the public interests and that there are problems and issues that deserve attention and discussion by the Assembly. One of the most important issues, he said, is terrorism, which is being imported through infiltrators. That, he added, must be tackled and a firm and conclusive solution must be found to safeguard Kuwait's security and stability. [passage omitted]

Kuwait Minister Views Relations With Iraq, Iran

AU2405131493 Vienna Oesterreich Eins Radio Network in German 1000 GMT 24 May 93

[Report on interview with Transportation Minister Habib Hasan Jawhar Hayat by Hartmut Fiedler in Vienna; date not given—recorded; Hayat speaks in English with superimposed German translation]

[Text] [Fiedler] Does Kuwait still feel threatened by Iraq? The answer by Minister Habib Hayat is clear:

[Hayat] Yes. The Iraqis do not recognize the border and Kuwait's inviolability. We have a very long border with Iraq and the regime there is still sending terrorists across the border.

[Fiedler] The border was slightly revised by the United Nations after the war. Kuwait received some additional oil wells, while Iraq now has access to the Persian Gulf at 'Umm Qasr. However, the propaganda in Baghdad still sees the emirate as Iraq's 19th province.

Minister Hayat is skeptical about whether tensions will ease:

[Hayat] First, of course, Iraq should comply with all UN resolutions. However, it is impossible to come to an understanding with this regime. In Baghdad there is an incredible dictatorship. I think that no one can agree with that, but, in the end, it is in the hands of the Iraqi people themselves to decide who will control their country.

[Fiedler] The Kuwaiti politician says that peace will probably not be possible with Saddam Husayn. Since Iraq was defeated and largely lost its arms arsenal, Iran has gained political importance. Over the past few months, some of the old territorial conflicts between the Iranian Government and the small states on the other side of the Gulf have erupted again.

Nevertheless, Kuwait is not afraid of new Iranian superiority, Minister Hayat says.

[Hayat] In our history there was not one day of enmity between Iran and Kuwait, you know. Everything can be settled by means of talks and negotiations. If there are any minor differences of opinion, one need not start hostility.

[Fiedler] The minister says that there is an upward trend in the economy, even though a lot still has to be done to repair the damage caused by the war. However, oil production has again reached the level it had before the Iraqi occupation.

Hayat brusquely rejects accusations by human rights organizations against Kuwait because of its treatment of

the Palestinians. After Iraq had been driven out, tens of thousands of Palestinians were expelled with the often shaky accusation of collaboration. Hayat, however, denies this.

[Hayat] The Palestinians were expelled by the Iraqis, not by us. Many Palestinians left the country during the Iraqi occupation. After all, there were a lot of them—between 400,000 and 600,000—who lived very comfortably. There are still Palestinians in Kuwait now. Let me repeat: No one, no one was driven out of Kuwait by the Kuwaitis.

[Fiedler] The Palestinians in the camps in Jordan, some of which still exist, naturally have a totally different view on this.

Denies Iranian Threat

LD2405175193 Tehran IRNA in English 1725 GMT 24 May 9

[Text] Vienna, May 24, IRNA—Kuwait's Communication and Transportation Minister Habib Jawhar Hayat Monday emphasized on the good relations between his country and Iran. Despite Western accusations of a massive arms build-up by Iran, he said, an Iranian threat to Kuwait's security was unfounded.

The Kuwaiti minister, here as the special envoy of the amir of Kuwait, conveyed a message of thanks to Austrian President Thomas Klestil for Vienna's support during the Iraqi invasion.

Speaking to journalists, the minister while complaining about Iraq's non-compliance with Security Council resolutions said that there are still about 600 Kuwaiti nationals imprisoned in Iraq.

The minister also expressed hope that the question of the three Persian Gulf islands disputed between Iran and the UAE [United Arab Emirates] will be solved peacefully.

Canadian Energy Minister Arrives for Visit

LD2305210793 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1825 GMT 23 May 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 23 May (KUNA)— Bill McKnight, Canadian minister of energy, mines, and resources, arrived in Kuwait this evening leading a nine-member delegation for a two-day official visit. [passage omitted]

The visit is aimed at strengthening cooperation between Kuwait and Canada. During his visit to Kuwait, the Canadian minister is expected to hold talks on the possibility of cooperation between the two countries in the domains of energy, defense, communications, education, training, and the establishment of joint investment projects. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Receives Messages From Counterparts

LD2205135893 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1229 GMT 22 May 93

[Excerpts] Kuwait, 22 May—Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad, first deputy prime minister and foreign minister, received here this morning a letter from Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal concerning the brotherly relations between the two countries. [passage omitted]

The first deputy prime minister also received Iranian Ambassador Hoseyn Sadeqi, who handed him a letter from Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati concerning bilateral relations between the two countries.

Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad also received today a letter from Russian Federation Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, in which he reaffirms Russia's support for Kuwait's independence and territorial integrity and the need for Iraq to implement all the UN Security Council resolutions related to the liberation of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

The first deputy prime minister also received the Rwandan planning minister, who is currently visiting Kuwait.

Oman

Agreement Signed With India To Set Up Joint Commission

BK2305163893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] India and Oman have agreed to set up a joint commission to enhance cooperation in the economic, trade, and technical fields. This followed the discussions held between the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, and the Omani under secretary for political affairs, Haytham Bin-Tariq Al Sa'id, in Muscat today.

Announcing the decision, an official spokesman said that the commission will meet alternately in Muscat and New Delhi every year under the chairmanship of the commerce ministers of both the countries. Our Gulf correspondent reports that Mr. Bhatia met the Oman ruler and several other ministers to discuss ways and means to extend bilateral relations.

Qatar

Velayati Conveys Message to Amir, Departs

LD2405143593 Tehran IRNA in English 1404 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Abu Dhabi, May 24, IRNA—Iran's Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati conveyed President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani's verbal message to the Qatari amir, Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, in Doha

today. Present at the meeting were Heir Apparent Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani and Qatar's minister of foreign affairs, Shaykh Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabbur Al Thani.

The amir welcomed the Iranian delegation [and] called such "brotherly and friendly" meetings as significant for consolidation of relations between the two countries. Velayati briefed the Qatari amir on bilateral, regional and international issues.

The two sides stressed the need for cooperation among Islamic states to end the plight of Bosnian Muslims. They also discussed Tehran-Doha cooperation within the framework of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC).

Later today Velayati left Doha for Manama on the fifth leg of his tour of Persian Gulf Arab states and was seen off by his Qatari counterpart. The Iranian foreign minister visited Saudi Arabia, Oman and the UAE [United Arab Emirates] before arriving in Qatar yesterday.

Saudi Defense Minister Ends Visit

LD2105180093 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1540 GMT 21 May 93

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 21 May, SPA—His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, second deputy prime minister, minister of defense and aviation, and inspector general, left Doha this afternoon after an official visit to the state of Qatar at the invitation of His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and minister of defense.

During his visit his highness met his highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the state of Qatar, his highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, and a number of senior officials in the sister state of Qatar. [passage omitted]

His Royal Highness Prince Sultan Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz arrived later today in Jeddah. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

King Feels Iran Has 'Good Intentions' About Ties

LD2405192093 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1745 GMT 24 May 93

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 24 May (SPA)—King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques, chaired a meeting of the Council of Ministers this afternoon, Monday, 24 May 1993 in Salam palace in Jeddah.

After the session, His Excellency 'Ali al-Sha'ir, minister of information, made a statement to SPA. [passage omitted]

The king praised preparations for the pilgrimage season, and the Council of Ministers listened to a report of a meeting of the Damascus Declaration states which convened in Doha last week.

The custodian of the two holy mosques clarified to the Council of Ministers the contents of a message from His Excellency President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, God support him, which he was given during his meeting with His Excellency Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the Iranian foreign minister, some days ago. The king indicated that he feels the Iranian Government has good intentions about improving current ties between the two countries in various fields. [passage omitted]

Looking at the dealings on the working agenda, the Council of Ministers made a number of decisions, including:

1. Endorsing the cooperation agreement between the Defense Ministry in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Italian Defense Ministry which was issued in King Khalid military city on 17 February 1993, in the formula enclosed with the decision. A draft royal decree concerning this will be prepared. [passage omitted]

Over 100,000 Iranians Arrive for Pilgrimage

LD2305095193 Tehran IRNA in English 0914 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Mecca, May 23, IRNA—The number of Iranian hajj pilgrims arrived in Saudia Arabia by Saturday [22 May] noon amounted to 101,690 of whom 8,000 are staying in Medina and 93,960 are in Mecca, said an official of the Iranian hajj headquarters here Sunday [23 May].

He said that the last flight of the Iranian pilgrims, May 25, would raise the number of the pilgrims to 117,000. The official noted that out of total number of Iranian pilgrims who arrived in Saudi Arabia by Saturday noon, 53 percent were men and the rest women. The group included some 350,000 disabled, 600 former prisoners of war and 5 to 6 thousands of relatives of martyrs, he added. The procedure for the transfer of Iranian pilgrims from Medina to Mecca started on May 11 and would end on May 25.

Messages Sent to Kuwaiti, Qatari Foreign Ministers

LD2305133093 Riyadh SPA in English 1240 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Kuwait, May 23, SPA—Kuwaiti Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir received a message from Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal dealing with fraternal relations and cooperation between the two countries. The message was delivered by Saudi Ambassador to Kuwait Tarrad 'Abdallah al-Harithi during a meeting with Shaykh Sabah in Kuwait City yesterday.

In Doha, Qatari Foreign Minister Hamad Bin-Jasim Bin-Jabbur Al Thani also received a message from Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal. Qatari News Agency said the message dealt with ways of consolidating bilateral relations in the framework of constant consultations and coordination among the GCC [Gulf Cooperation Council] countries and the current Gulf, Arab and international issues. The message was delivered by Saudi ambassador to Qatar 'Abd al-Rahman al-Shubayli.

Foreign Minister Receives Kuwaiti Oil Minister

LD2205162593 Riyadh Saudi Arabian Kingdom Radio Network in Arabic 1430 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, the foreign minister, received at his office at the ministry today His Excellency 'Ali al-Baghli, the Kuwaiti oil minister, who handed his highness a message from his excellency Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al- Sabah, the deputy chairman of the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers and foreign minister. His excellency the Kuwaiti oil minister and the delegation accompanying him arrived in Riyadh this morning and were welcomed on arrival by a number of officials.

Canadian Minister Meets Prince Sa'ud, Defense Official

LD2305204893 Riyadh SPA in English 1925 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Riyadh, May 23, SPA—Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal received here on Sunday visiting Canadian Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources Bill McKnight to review bilateral relations and means of boosting them.

The meeting was attended by the Foreign Ministry's Economic Department Director Ambassador Ma'mun Kurdi.

Minister McKnight also met on Sunday with the Assistant Minister of Defence and Aviation for Military Affairs 'Uthman Bin-Muhammad al-Hamid.

[Riyadh SPA in English in a Riyadh-datelined report at 1943 GMT adds: "Canadian Minister of Energy, Mines and Resources Bill McKnight and his accompanying delegation left the Kingdom on Sunday following a three-day visit to Saudi Arabia."]

Holds News Conference

LD2305222893 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 2100 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Riyadh, 23 May (SPA)— His Excellency Bill McKnight, Canadian minister of energy, mines, and resources, has stated that his current visit to the Kingdom was aimed at strengthening cooperation between the two countries in the field of energy and technology.

He said that the volume of trade between Canada and the Kingdom was more than $900 million last year. Speaking at a news conference in Riyadh today, he pointed out that Canadian companies have been looking forward to increasing their economic and trade relations with the Kingdom, in the oil industry, geographical surveying, mining, and minerals in particular. He expressed the readiness of these companies to offer their expertise in developing the bases of geographical data, and training local cadres in the management of natural resources and the environment.

McKnight noted that during his meeting with His Excellency Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, the carbon tax was discussed. He said: I do believe from the point of view of the Canadian Government that it is unfair and impractical in our country.

The Canadian minister thanked the officials in the Kingdom for their warm welcome and described his visit as successful.

Report Details Aid Given to Bosnian Muslims

LD2405203993 Riyadh SPA in English 1940 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Riyadh, May 24, SPA—The total Saudi official and popular financial donations for Bosnia-Herzegovina amount to SR [Saudi riyals] 356,382,676 including SR 241,857,676 donated by the people and SR 114,525,000 official and governmental aid.

A statement issued by the High Commission for Donations for Bosnian Muslims said most of these donations were delivered to the Government of Bosnia-Herzegovina, while the rest was allocated for food aid, most of which was distributed to inside Bosnia through distribution centers. The rest was distributed among camps outside Bosnia.

Moreover, the commission supervises a camp in Zagreb accommodating 300 refugees including women, children and old people. The commission also sponsors two refugee camps in Split accommodating about 1,000 refugees and supervises a school teaching 550 Bosnian students.

It distributes food stuffs to 25,000 registered Bosnian refugees in Zagreb, Split, Ljubljana costing 48,000 dollars a month.

The commission supervises clinics affiliated to it in former Yugoslavia and has received three ambulances-two of which were donated by Prince Ahmad Bin-Salman Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz—to use inside Bosnia-Herzegovina.

It sponsors 13 Bosnian handicapped children currently being treated in Zagreb, and is currently studying requests to sponsor 39 more.

14,000 tonnes of food stuffs has been sent to Bosnia through the Split office, including 6,000 tonnes of various food commodities and 8,000 tonnes of flour. They have been distributed in Tuzla, Zintsa and eastern Bosnia. 230 tonnes have also been sent to besieged areas.

The commission has printed 50,000 copies of the last chapter of the Holy Qu'ran and 30 teachers in Croatia and Slovenia in addition to 70 teachers inside Bosnia are currently being hired to work in Bosnia under the supervision of the Split office.

Final training course for preachers among Bosnian emigrants are currently being prepared, because of the need to cement Islamic values and principles in several areas therein.

United Arab Emirates

Iran's Velayati Delivers Message From President

JN2305111193 Abu Dhabi United Arab Emirates Radio Network in Arabic 0930 GMT 23 May 93

[Excerpt] His Highness Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan has received a message from His Excellency 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, dealing with bilateral relations and ways of entrenching and developing them in light of the friendly relations between the two countries. The message also deals with current regional and international developments of mutual interest.

The message was conveyed by His Excellency 'Ali Akbar Velayati, foreign minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran at a meeting with his highness on the island of Sir Bani Yas this morning. [passage omitted]

Agreement To Curb Terrorism Reached With India

BK2505095893 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0830 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] India and the United Arab Emirates, UAE, have agreed to work together to curb terrorism and step up cooperation in security measures. The agreement was reached at official-level talks between the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. R.L. Bhatia, and his UAE counterpart, Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid, in Abu Dhabi last night. They stressed the need for such cooperation in the interest of both the countries. Shaykh Hamdan Bin-Zayid assured Mr. Bhatia that his country wants the security and stability of India. Both the ministers also agreed that growing terrorism is leading to instability in many countries and regions and has to be tackled through joint efforts. The two ministers also discussed at length ways and means of boosting economic and trade cooperation. They discussed the possibilities of investment and reviewed the progress of various joint projects decided upon during President Shaykh Zayid's visit to India last year.

Republic of Yemen

Salih Addresses Nation on Anniversary of Unity

JN2205093793 Sanaa Yemeni Republic Radio Network in Arabic 0430 GMT 22 May 93

[Speech by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih on the third anniversary of the country's unity on 21 May; place not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] Yemen, which was united on 22 May, achieved on 27 April a new victory represented by holding democratic and free elections within the framework of political and party pluralism. Our Yemeni people were the first winners in these elections, which entrenched the roots of unity and ended partitioning.

O faithful sons of our people: Unity was not only a historic gain; it has also straightened out matters. Through unity, our people have achieved their strong and effective presence and through democracy they proved their ability to build their cultural edifice to awaken the united and democratic Yemen. Through electing your representatives to the legislative branch on the basis of political and party pluralism—for the first time in the Republic of Yemen—you have accomplished a great task in embodying your will and overcoming the challenges that the new Yemeni state was facing in all fields.

The future expects you to make more sacrifices to build a new Yemen, a Yemen of dignity, pride, and social progress. Therefore, the state institutions, all sectors of people, and all parties and political organizations in the national arena should assume their responsibilities. They should accomplish their national tasks to build the modern Yemeni state—the state of institutions, discipline, and law. They also should enhance performance and production to achieve balanced developments in all political, social, economic, and cultural fields. We stress that all parties, without exception, should shoulder the responsibility of building the homeland. The coalition of the parties that triumphed in the elections does not mean that the role of opposition has been canceled and that others have been deprived of the right to existence and to shouldering the responsibility of building the homeland. There is no real democracy without a real opposition based on decent competition under political and party pluralism in order to serve the higher interests of the homeland and people far away from slogans, political outbidding, and failure to fulfill commitments.

We are confident that the national political parties and organizations that failed in the elections, will (?reassess) their positions and learn from their political mistakes that greatly damaged national unity and harmed Yemen's reputation abroad. [passage omitted]

Official Spokesman's Statement on Iranian Raids

JN2505113393 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1039 GMT 25 May 93

["Text" of statement by an "official spokesman" on Iranian air raids on al-Khalis and Jalula' areas on 25 May]

[Text] Every time the pillars of treason and treachery, which are established by the masters of imperialism and Zionism against mujahid Iraq, collapse, they create pillars inspired by Satan after they become void of their virtuous values. Every time their quivers become empty and when imperialism and Zionism fail to bring new forces to fight heroic Iraq, they find the rancorous agent rulers in Iran, the colleagues of Satan, prepared to undertake such a cowardly treacherous action. After God extinguished the fire of imperialism and Zionism by His great light, the evildoers in Iran moved once again to aggress against Iraq. At approximately 0300 on 25 May [2300 GMT on 24 May], six F-4 planes belonging to the evil regime in Tehran carried out one raid on the al-Khalis area and two raids on the Jalula' area. This criminal, cowardly aggression resulted in material damage to a drugstore, burned fuel tanks in al-Khalis District, and material damage in the village of Marjanah in al-Khalis District. Electrical wires there were also cut. The home of a peasant was also heavily damaged, and his agricultural tractor was destroyed. Likewise, the home of a citizen in Jalula' sustained similar damage.

Out of commitment to the penalties ordained by God, and since faithful Muslims must enlighten even non-Muslims in the hope that they may be deterred and enlightened about the correct paths that should be walked, we would like to warn these evildoers residing in Tehran, who are forsaken by their people. We would like them to perfectly recall and examine the lessons of the past. We want them to recall their aggressions against Iraq prior to and after 4 September 1980. They must also examine the results of these aggressions. Furthermore, they must recall how they showed stubbornness in the showdown of the al-Qadisiyah battle when they lent deaf ears to all peace calls. They must contemplate the results of this stubbornness. So, they must not be driven to arrogance, like stupid people. They must be aware of the consequences of this treacherous and cowardly act of theirs. They must realize that their continuous playing with fire will cause them to burn by acts of their peoples before they are burned by Baghdad's wrath.

May God be my witness that I have forewarned them.

God is great. May the lowly be cursed.

Paper Warns Kurds Waiting To Punish 'Agents'

JN2205172493 Baghdad INA in English 1250 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, May 22, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily for today stressed that facts would continue to be stronger than lies, even if some succeeded in fabricating and distorting the reality.

Commenting on a statement by a humanitarian organization official on the deteriorating conditions the Iraqi Kurds are facing, the daily said the official had admitted that the level of services rendered by the Kurdish bodies (referring to the agent elements in the north) to the Kurdish people was far below that offered by the Iraqi government to them before.

The daily stressed that all walls of lies installed by the agents and spies would eventually collapse and only truth would remain, referring to confirmations by the BBC that neither the Western organizations nor the Kurdish groups in northern Iraq could provide the services secured by the Iraqi Government to its Kurdish population.

It said this confession signalled that the agents' and spies' administration of the Autonomous Region of Kurdistan under the U.S., British, French and Zionist protection had totally destroyed the service sector established by July 17-30 revolution in a period of 25 years and sabotaged the overall development program it implemented there.

The daily expressed certainty that truth would have in a way or another found its way to the world public opinion. It said those who sought the help of foreigners against their country, as Jalal Talabani did, should be aware of the severe punishment awaiting them from the Kurdish people themselves, rather than from the Iraqi Government and army. It said those agents should stop speaking of democracy, because democracy could not be achieved under foreign occupation.

Kurdistan Council Discusses Developments

JN2405131393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1015 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 24 May (INA)—The Executive Council of the Kurdistan autonomous region met yesterday to discuss political developments and conditions in Iraqi Kurdistan.

The newspaper AL-'IRAQ cites the Council president, Ja'far 'Abd-al-Karim al-Barzanji, as saying the Council discussed popular outrage in the region protesting the oppressive and conspiratorial conduct of the agents, who are trying to execute colonialist and Zionist schemes to humiliate our Kurdish people and damage the achievements of the 17-30 July Revolution in autonomous Kurdistan.

The Council president urged our Kurdish people in Iraqi Kurdistan to intensify and escalate the daily struggle against the agents of the foreigner, to isolate them, demolish their base schemes and kick them out of Kurdistan.

The Council president and members reaffirmed their loyalty to President Saddam Husayn, pledging to his excellency to stand against the evil conspiracies hatched

by the colonialist and Zionist forces to undermine unity among the Arab and Kurdish citizens of our people.

France's Stand on Events in North Praised

JN2305131693 Baghdad INA in English 1248 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, May 23, INA—AL-JUMHURIYAH daily for today has praised the French Government stance towards the events in north Iraq and its confirmation of respect of the Iraqi national soil unity.

The French Government had issued a statement during the presence of Jalal Talabani and Mas'ud Barzani in Paris in which it said "France calls for preserving safety of Iraq's territories and asks all Iraqi groups to negotiate with the Iraqi Government."

The French Government has emphasised this positive stand through non-providing an opportunity for receiving Barzani and Talabani by any of its members and officials after it has apologized to be received by the foreign Minister as he was in Washington and the defence minister in Rome and missed the opportunity of their meeting with the minister of humanitarian affairs. [sentence as received]

AL-JUMHURIYAH daily described the French Government policy versus the events in northern Iraq as rectifying of the deviation which France was dragged to by the Socialist Party and its leader Francois Mitterrand. The daily has attributed the hostile behaviour which Mitterrand and his party pursued against Iraq to their being influenced and attached to the American Administration and submission to Zionist orientations. The daily has also expressed hope that the rectifying stand of the Paris Government would be an issue for later opening of Iraqi-French relations dossier.

Kurdish Leader Barzani Discusses Western Support

PM2405152593 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 21 May 93 p 12

[Interview with Mas'ud Barzani, "leader of the Kurdistan Democratic Party and member of the leadership in the National Congress," by Huda al-Husayni in London; date not given]

[Excerpts] [Al-Husayni] Let us talk about the visit you made to Washington.

[Barzani] With the new U.S. Administration's assumption of power and the conflicting statements it issued regarding the region, a kind of concern afflicted many parties. But after we went to Washington—where we were received by Vice President Al Gore and met with Secretary of State Warren Christopher, the national security adviser, and the heads of the foreign relations committees in Congress—we ascertained that there was no change in the U.S. position. Al Gore openly and clearly stressed that the U.S. Administration would continue to support democracy and the Iraqi people until their aims of replacing the existing regime with a democratic alternative are achieved.

[Al-Husayni] And did he point out that the democratic alternative cannot be established while Saddam Husayn is in power?

[Barzani] Yes, all officials there told us that there would be no reconciliation with Saddam. They also said that, when they tried to move the question out of the personal framework, their aim was to make it clear to Saddam and anyone who comes after him that they would not be allowed to practice terrorism and repression against the Iraqi people and the Kurdish people in particular.

[Al-Husayni] Could it be said that you returned from Washington satisfied?

[Barzani] From that angle, I returned from there satisfied. Because it is not possible that the U.S. vice president did not mean what he said, especially as the secretary of state and all those who received us emphasized to us the same position. The secretary of state surprised us by telling us that they are working to submit a plan to try the heads of the regime as war criminals. As a result I had to omit some harsh sentences from the speech I was about to deliver.

[Al-Husayni] You said that with regard to their position you returned satisfied. What about the other aspects?

[Barzani] Actually the political aspect is the most important as far as I am concerned. But in practice the question that worries us a lot is the economic question. From the meetings I came to the conclusion that they are determined to do something and that the matter is still under consideration with regard to the measures which should be taken. They told us that they would be consulting with their allies like Britain, France, Turkey, and others. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] Are there camps in Kurdistan providing military training for members of the Unified Iraqi National Congress parties and organizations?

[Barzani] No. There are camps for training peshmergas. We have formed a unified force from the peshmergas along the lines of the Iraqi Army. We adopted the Iraqi Army's system exactly as it is and applied it to the peshmerga. With regard to your question, isolated admissions do take place, but no complete units have joined the camps. Besides, that would require huge resources which up to this moment are still unavailable.

[Al-Husayni] And are you thinking of doing that in the long term?

[Barzani] Actually we should know what the aim is. My personal view is that, if the aim is to prepare an army to fight the Iraqi Army, I think that that is a big mistake. But if the aim is to establish a base for the army of democratic Iraq—not for this or that party—it is a good aim, and we agree to form a nucleus. And in my opinion,

it is better for the military units which are willing to join the congress and the opposition to stay where they are and to move when they are required to do so. Even if confrontation is a must, it should be with the narrowest link [adyaq halaqah] and not with the Iraqi Army. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] Is Baghdad making any attempts, or has it recently made any attempts, to reopen the dialogue with you as a Kurdish front?

[Barzani] At the end of February Mukarram Talabani came to us and claimed that he was coming to explore the position and find out whether there was a possibility of dialogue. I asked him: On what basis will the dialogue be held? He replied: I do not know. So I told him: You must know first on what basis, so that we can say yes or no. He left and did not come back. However, they are entirely willing to hold a dialogue, perhaps in a more positive manner. But, of course, the circumstances are different now. Besides, the recent decision which they took, namely the decision concerning the Iraqi currency, moves further away from dialogue. If we examine all the measures they have taken since October 1991, we will find that they are steps against dialogue. This is because, if they had though that a dialogue would take place one day, they would not have embarked on the measures they took, namely the blockade, the withdrawal of administrations, the cancellation of the currency, and the bombings. An atmosphere has to be prepared for every dialogue. They have torpedoed all positive atmospheres. They have torpedoed them completely.

[Al-Husayni] How much did Kurdistan lose as a result of the cancellation of the Iraqi currency?

[Barzani] According to our experts' estimates, the existing cash in Kurdistan in the Iraqi currency is about one billion dinars. At least half of that sum is in 25-dinar bank notes, which have been canceled. Thus our losses are 500 million dinars.

[Al-Husayni] How did ordinary Kurdish citizens overcome this tragedy?

[Barzani] They have not yet overcome it. They are experiencing the tragedy. They have suffered heavy losses. The subject is very sensitive, and we are at a loss: Do we take a certain step? Many people might interpret it as a step toward independence. He (Saddam Husayn) is pushing us in that direction. Do we print a new currency? They will accuse us of seeking independence. And if we do not print a currency, what do we do? We must use a foreign currency, and in that case others will accuse us. The issue is embarrassing.

The decision to cancel the currency is a breach of Resolution 688, a clear breach of it. This is why I imagine that those affected will be compensated from the frozen Iraqi funds.

[Al-Husayni] Did Kurdistan ever expect to be exposed to an official theft?

[Barzani] I had for some time expected and feared that they might embark on that measure, because I know they would not hesitate to take any measure, even if it harms them, as long as it will hit us.

[Al-Husayni] Did you discuss with the Turkish Government the question of dealing in the Turkish lira?

[Barzani] I believe that the local government in Kurdistan has made contacts with the Turkish Government, but so far I do not know the final official reply. Dealing in the Turkish lira is one of the proposed alternatives. There is another proposal along the lines of the Bank of Scotland, namely that the al-Rafidayn Bank's branch in Irbil revoke the decision and continue to deal in the 25-dinar bank notes or print a new currency which has its own characteristics but remains linked to the Iraqi Central Bank, because it is done through the Irbil branch. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] Some people proposed the idea of setting up a Kurdish central bank?

[Barzani] That is the step which we are avoiding.

[Al-Husayni] Do you believe that, if matters worsen, you could be forced to to secede?

[Barzani] It would be difficult for that to happen. It is the game the Iraqi regime is playing, and we will not give it that card at all. When the Iraqi regime imposed the blockade on us, its aim was to force us to declare the secession. And now it is denying some four million people their right to use their country's currency. It is dealing with them as though they belonged to another state. During the seven-day period which they allowed people to exchange the currency, people were completely prevented from moving between Kurdistan and the center region.

We still have not overcome this problem. We are living amid a very serious crisis. We are looking for solutions. We—Jalal Talabani and I—wrote to UN Secretary General Dr. Butrus Butrus-Ghali. We wrote to the U.S. Administration. We discussed the issue with the British and will be discussing it with the French. It is to be the topic of our main talks with President Mitterrand. We are looking for a solution. A solution must be found: Either issuing a new currency, dealing in foreign currency, or imposing or adopting a resolution through the Security Council that that measure is a breach of Resolution 688, thus dealing in the canceled currency should continue and be covered by the frozen funds.

During our stay in Washington we held meetings with some legal and UN experts regarding a legal solution. The prevalent view was that the measure taken is illegitimate and illegal, except in the event of the Iraqi regime's recognition of Kurdistan's sovereignty and independence—which is out of the question and not requested by us.

They said that there are legal consequences for denying a people the right to exercise their natural right to deal in

their homeland's currency. The ideal solution of which they advised us is that we Kurds are entitled to demand that the Security Council pay us a sum from the frozen Iraqi funds at the same official dinar rate in order to continue our daily life. That is what they advised us to do.

[Al-Husayni] If you decide to print a new currency, do you have backing for it?

[Barzani] The backing will come from the frozen funds.

[Al-Husayni] Will President Turgut Ozal's demise affect your relations with Turkey?

[Barzani] President Ozal was the man who led the opening-up process. His departure was a great loss for all lovers of peace and stability in our region.

But I imagine that the relationship has reached a level which no other official can ignore. However the dealing method might differ and the open-minded method characteristic of Ozal might not be adopted. He broke certain barriers.

[Al-Husayni] Some say that security is no longer established in Kurdistan, in view of the car bombs and the explosions.

[Barzani] When I was in London last year two cars exploded in London within one week. And we hear about the situation in New York despite all the technology and advanced equipment in the possession of the security forces there. True, they do succeed in blowing up a car in Kurdistan, but we at the same time succeed in finding and defusing 20 booby-trapped cars.

The reports which the outside world receives are exaggerated, and I stress that our security is better than security in many independent states which have big, professional security organs.

[Al-Husayni] Why do charity organization staff want to withdraw from Kurdistan?

[Barzani] On the contrary, we still receive delegations from Germany, Switzerland, and France. Only a medical organization has taken a temporary decision as a result of the murder of one of its members. If these organizations take account of the security instructions that we give them, they will not be exposed to anything; but they sometimes ignore the security instructions.

[Al-Husayni] And what about the Iraqi forces' entry into some villages near Irbil? How and why did they enter them?

[Barzani] The villages are located on the 36th Parallel. And two months ago one of these villages was exposed to a massacre committed by regular Iraqi forces. They killed 17 mothers and children. The villages are located in a very, very rich agricultural area. The Iraqi forces, backed by the Army [as published], went in armed to steal crops. The forces are still in the area, which is some 40 km southwest of Irbil.

[Al-Husayni] In addition to the Iraqi forces which entered that area Iranian forces crossed the northern border. How are you going to tackle these situations?

[Barzani] The Iranian forces' deployments are exactly on the border. The Iranians' pretext is that they are targeting the Iranian Kurdish opposition. But they have exceeded this aim, as they shelled our villages and advanced several kilometers into the Banjwin area. There is a limit to everything. We have decided to fight the Iranian interference.

[Al-Husayni] Are you ready for the fight?

[Barzani] Of course, and we must fight, because there is no other solution, because they have crossed the line they are standing on [as published].

[Al-Husayni] Do you have the ability to fight the Iranian Army?

[Barzani] I hope that matters will not reach the point of confrontation. However, if the Iranian Army enters our territory, we will certainly fight, regardless of whether we have the ability to confront it. We must fight. It is a matter of principle which concerns national honor.

[Al-Husayni] Iraqi Kurdistan in the past was a safe haven or a base for the Kurdish Workers Party [PKK] (Turkey), and it has now turned into a base for Iranian Kurds. Is that not a new problem for you?

[Barzani] It is not we who created that situation. We inherited it. When the uprising erupted we inherited a situation which included the Iranian Kurdish Democratic Party's positions. Its members were present in the area just as they are today, with the Iraqi Government's approval. And members of the Turkish PKK were also present, but in small numbers. It was difficult for us to take a position which Iraqi Kurdish public opinion would not justify for us. It would have been said that the Ba'thist government provided safe havens for the Iranian opposition and the Turkish Kurdish opposition while the Kurdish leadership rejected that.

But our position should be understood, as we cannot fight the Turkish Army and the Iranian Army and resist the Iraqi regime's pressures.

The Iranian Kurdish opposition has considerably taken account of our position, in contrast with the Turkish Kurds. And I believe that Iranian Kurds will take more account of our position now. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] Did you not try to bring views closer between the Turkish Government and the PKK?

[Barzani] When Jalal Talabani was in Syria he contacted me and then played that role. We welcome and support any peaceful solution. We have stated our position to

Turkish officials in the past, namely that it is a peaceful solution and democratic measures, not violence, which will end the problem, and we hoped that Turkish officials would listen to that and reach a result. But President Ozal died and Turkish officialdom became preoccupied with the election of a new president.

[Al-Husayni] Do you believe that new Turkish President Suleyman Demirel is willing to respond to the peace initiative?

[Barzani] I have not met Mr. Demirel. Jalal [Talabani] has met him. We may meet with him on the way back. However, from his statements I note that he welcomed the idea, but with reservations. The most important thing in this case is to establish trust. At present there is no trust between the two sides. This is an important point.

[Al-Husayni] What happened to the PKK prisoners who surrendered to you?

[Barzani] They are present in a camp which we set up in al-Sulaymaniyah Governorate, which has no common borders with Turkey. They are under local police supervision.

[Al-Husayni] Did Turkey demand that they be handed over to it?

[Barzani] At the beginning some local officials demanded that but we refused. Because it is not reasonable for us to hand them over, nor will we do so. No way. However, we are not allowing them to set up positions on the border or to launch military operations from our territory. We cannot backtrack on that decision, that is regardless of whether or not they reach an agreement with the Turkish Government. We cannot allow them to interfere in our internal affairs or set up camps inside our territory. [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] Will the decision to withdraw UN forces from Kurdistan have a negative effect?

[Barzani] Their presence is moral more than anything else. This is because it is we who often protect them. But their presence gives people moral strength. And withdrawing them would have a great impact and could be interpreted as an indication that the United Nations and the West wanted to rid themselves completely of the Kurdish issue in Iraq.

[Al-Husayni] Do you believe that that could happen—which could cause you to pay a heavy price?

[Barzani] If they withdraw, we would, of course, pay the price, perhaps the ultimate price.

[Al-Husayni] And that means that the decision to declare Kurdistan a safe haven was just a preparation for disaster?

[Barzani] If they withdraw. But we have received assurances from the U.S. Administration and the French and British prime ministers that there is no backtracking and that the protection will remain until...

[Al-Husayni] Until a change occurs in Iraq. Do you believe that that change is possible, or that Saddam Husayn is getting stronger?

[Barzani] The regime cannot continue forever. But when and how will this occur? That depends on the quality of the countermove or plan aiming to change or end the regime. [passage omitted]

Political Writer Warns Kuwait Rulers Against 'Plotting'

JN2405110993 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 24 May (INA)—An Iraqi political writer has warned the al-Sabah clique against its conspiratorial and aggressive policy. He stressed that if Iraq loses patience the trenches and walls [built by Kuwait along the border with Iraq] will not benefit the robbers of Kuwait who, this time, will find no means of transportation to take them to Riyadh. In an article published in AL-THAWRAH today under the headline "The Continuation of the al-Sabah Clan's Plotting Against Iraq... Where To?," Nuri Najm al-Marsumi said: The only way for those who seek security and stability is to act wisely, learn lessons, particularly the lesson of the continuous crisis, deal with Iraq's legitimate rights to land, sovereignty, and wealth in accordance with the principles of justice, and abandon conspiracies and instigations.

The Iraqi writer added: The Security Council resolutions, with all their injustice, do not at all give any state, organization, or individual the right to pursue Iraq or encroach on it. These resolutions also do not deprive Iraq of its legitimate right to self-defense. These resolutions, in fact, allow Iraq to possess weapons of self-defense.

Al-Marsumi noted that Iraq's agreement on the UN Security Council resolutions and its full commitment to implement them certainly does not mean that Iraq will accept encroachments on its borders and that it will allow the al-Sabah family or anybody else to tamper with its resources, plot against its security and economy, and put the nation's resources and decisive issues at risk.

The Iraqi writer said that the Iraqis can always protect their territory, independence, and free choices, and can also defend them against coveters inside and outside the region. The devils, who are planning stands on behalf of the al-Sabah family, should carefully read the history of Iraq from the beginning of human civilization in order to see that they are waging an unequal battle and that time is not in their favor.

The writer stressed that the sons of Kuwait are Iraqis and Arabs before anything else. Therefore, depriving the sons of Kuwait of their national and pan-Arab identity for political reasons—which are related to a group of people

who are stealing, in a way unprecedented in history, the wealth of a country—is a temporary phenomenon. This is because the al-Sabah family cannot, despite all the bribes they are paying, fabricate history or force the Kuwaitis to speak other than their Arabic language, abandon their religion, or erase from memory all that is related to their Arab and Iraqi origin.

He noted that all the measures taken by the rulers of Kuwait as a result of their worry and fear, including trenches and border barriers, will never erase the fact that the city of Kuwait is adjacent to the city of al-Basrah. Since there is no way to move the city to either America or Europe, this eternal adjacency, along with this historic relationship between the origin and its branches, constitute the factor which governs future relations between Iraq and Kuwait. Just as the Berlin wall collapsed and the Bar-Lev line vanished, it is not difficult to fill this trench with earth and remove the wall within hours.

He pointed out: The stands of states in general, including big powers, are governed by interests. They are changeable. In the world of politics, there is no such thing as a lasting stand, especially after interests have replaced ideologies in drafting policies and adopting stands. Based on this, wagering on this or that state's stand to entrench internal security and stability is like gambling with loaded dice.

He warned: The continuation of the policy of harming Iraq will not pass just like Sabah al-Ahmad and other agents of foreign intelligence and monopolistic companies imagine. Concluding defense agreements with foreign states and seeking their forces' assistance to protect the regime, as well as digging trenches and building walls around the city of Kuwait, will never achieve true security for this or that regime.

He said: Turning the city of Kuwait into a foreign military base is nothing strange to our Arab homeland and the world. There were foreign military bases in Iraq, and these bases spread in the Arab homeland wherever colonialism existed. However, all those bases and allies collapsed at decisive historical moments when the objective and internal circumstances for change became ripe.

He added: The al-Sabah clan has not learned from its experience after 29 months have passed since the 30-state aggression against Iraq and after this clan's return by the military force of aggression to the region of Kuwait. This clan has not studied the reasons which led to the situation it experienced on the morning of 2 August 1990 and until now.

The Iraqi political writer added that the policies and stands of the al-Sabah family clearly show that their suspect and anti-Iraq stands were also targeted against the Arab states which adopted stands and policies that were not in harmony with the interests of the al-Sabah family. He noted that this family today obstructs joint Arab action and plots against any development or any possible positive development in inter-Arab relations. In addition, reports indicate that there are effective coordination and cooperation between some symbols of the al-Sabah clan and the Zionist entity.

The writer reviewed the series of crimes committed by this family and its declared conspiratorial practices against Iraq, noting that the al-Sabah family instigated the crime of the 30-state aggression against Iraq which had destructive effects on the sons of Iraq and the Arab nation.

The Iraqi writer added that the al-Sabah family clique and the bribes they paid to influential persons in the Bush administration resulted in limiting the movement of Iraqi aircraft and creating the so-called no-fly zones in northern and southern Iraq. Their role is also known in extending financial aid to the criminals in the northern part of the homeland to prevent any agreement with the government in order to maintain the abnormal situation there.

He said: The al-Sabah henchmen's plotting against Iraq's economy has no limits and is now known to everyone. They were behind weakening Iraq's currency through illegal trading with it, and through smuggling basic commodities out of Iraq. The effects on the al-Sabah clique of Iraq's decision to cancel part of its currency are also known.

He noted: The al-Sabah henchmen were not satisfied with all this and with other conspiratorial practices, but they have recently created the scandal of an Iraqi attempt to "assassinate Bush" in a new treacherous effort to find a pretext for a new aggression against Iraq. The complexities of staying in power and isolating Kuwait from its national Iraqi environment, so as to continue to be plundered by al-Sabah and the world monopolistic companies, are now haunting these rulers. This is why they escalate hostility toward Iraq every time Iraq's relations with the UN Security Council become positive. For example, they create an issue and play a new card to work as a pretext for continuing the blockade.

He added: Entrenching the feeling of the Iraqis of Kuwait's sons, by telling them that the Iraqi danger still exists, is aimed at foiling the sincere efforts made by the nationalists and patriots in the city of Kuwait to confront the policies of the al-Sabah clan and all the agents and criminals in Kuwait.

Concluding his article, al-Marsumi said: Iraq calls on the al-Sabah clan to act wisely and to relinquish plotting and instigation. If it continues to indulge in sin, they will not find any means of transport to take them to Riyadh this time.

Saudi, Kuwaiti Facilities to Allied Aircraft Protested

JN2305111593 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0900 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Cairo, 23 May (INA)—Iraq has protested to the Arab League the continued provision of facilities by Saudi and Kuwaiti rulers to U.S., British, and French aircraft, which continue to violate Iraq's airspace, posing a serious threat to its security, sovereignty, and national unity.

In a letter to Arab League Secretary General Dr. 'Ismat 'Abd-al-Majid, the Iraqi permanent representative to the Arab League explained that the U.S., British, and French aircraft continued on Wednesday and Thursday [19 and 20 May respectively] to violate Iraq's airspace, using air bases in Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. These aircraft carried out 94 hostile air sorties on the aforementioned days, he added.

The Iraqi delegate requested in the letter, to which a list detailing these violations was attached, that the Arab League members be acquainted with these regrettable incidents.

Country's Importance in Regional Security Underlined

JN2105114093 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0925 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 21 May (INA)—The newspaper AL-THAWRAH has asserted that the Damascus Declaration runs contrary to the political and regional security logic that should prevail because the declaration was set up within the context of the abnormal state of affairs brought about by the 30-state aggression against Iraq.

In a article titled "The Losing Wager," the paper says the declaration could not continue because it was based on a partial framework, separate from the indivisible national security of the Arab nation.

The paper notes that signs indicate that the so-called Damascus Declaration is already dead because the parties that sought to make arrangements for its emergence and cheered it as a strong regional security guarantee for the Gulf states are now finding themselves incapable of making any real contribution to support the aims of that declaration.

The paper explains that the Egyptian and Syrian regimes were hoping that the coffers of the al-Sabah family and the Saudi regime would be opened for them, but, instead, they reaped only great disappointment after the Gulf states disavowed their pledges to finance projects worth 10 billion [currency not specified] in Egypt and Syria over period of 10 years.

The paper says the rulers dominating Kuwait have tied themselves with a series of military and security treaties and agreements to the United States, Britain, and France and made arrangements for their security within a framework that made Kuwait an open zone for a colonialist permanent military presence. The same applies to the Saudi rulers, who took the same path but through different political and media formulas.

The paper wonders if this large scale foreign military presence provides the base for the Damascus Declaration, and how can the Egyptian and Syrian regimes meet the Gulf security needs, especially the Syrian regime with its well-known position in providing political and media support to the aggressive Iranian scheme against the Arabian Gulf states.

The paper asserts that those who wager on protecting their security without the help of the Iraqi power are denying facts, overlooking the geopolitical principles, and inflicting great harm on their countries' economic and military resources. This was confirmed by that series of economic and political problems, absence of security, and lack of future prospects.

The article concludes by saying: The only way to get out of these problems, difficulties, and setbacks is to return to the political logic that views Iraq as a genuine guarantee for regional security. Otherwise, the state of concern and fear will continue to erode the stability of these countries.

Saddam: Gulf War Aggressors 'Cowards'

JN2405183793 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 24 May (INA)—President Saddam Husayn has said: The people who decided to fight Iraq were a group of cowards, each pushing the other until they built a column of 33 states. Only then did they dare to attack you.

During an oath-taking ceremony attended by 518 clergymen, tribal chiefs, and dignitaries from Diyala Governorate, 70 km east of Baghdad, his excellency said: Most of the world's major forces—called major according to the age's materialistic, scientific and technical standards—have assembled against Iraq, with its known land area, population, and material, scientific, and technical resources.

His excellency the president added: This position will continue to haunt the authors of this decision, even when they are asleep. Each and every one of them, if he is faithful and mindful of the rule regarding the proper positions men need to espouse, must atone for his sins everyday.

The president went on to say: If he was not content with the mere endorsement of this decision, he must demonstrate great repentance for his sins everyday. He must repent for endorsing such an erroneous decision—the decision to launch an aggression involving 33 states and 28 armies against a single state and a single army.

President Saddam Husayn stressed: If the aggressors had any right, if they thought they were defending what is right, they would not have waited seven months to attack.

His excellency wondered: Why does anyone who has the right and the faith assemble 33 states to attack?

His excellency said he regrets the fact that some people who are considered Arabs have forgotten Arab history and allowed the armies of infidelity to enter the land of the sacred Muslim places in Saudi Arabia and desecrate them through a decision by its king.

Addressing the Iraqis, President Saddam Husayn added: All good deeds will be recorded for you. We, however, have wished that the Arabs, including their kings and presidents, joined in doing good deeds. Men are judged by their deeds, and men's qualities are measured by their faith and forbearance. Your stand will remain for all the Arabs, not Iraqis alone, because you have raised the banner of faith in the name of all faithful people and in the name of all Arabs.

President Saddam Husayn added: The enemies wanted to slam the door to the future in our face in order to make us perish like other peoples, who lost the elements of their strength and who dispersed and were buried. We, however, thank God, kept the door to the future open.

His excellency explained that the enemies wanted to deprive Iraq of every element of spiritual and moral power and the elements of civilization, including the material ones. But we have saved the infrastructure and, with God's help, became even more capable than we were before the battle.

PLO's 'Abdallah Hurani Meets With Saddam

JN2205164393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1620 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, 22 May (INA)—President Saddam Husayn today received 'Abdallah Hurani, member of the PLO Executive Committee.

The meeting was attended by Tariq 'Aziz, member of the Revolution Command Council and deputy prime minister.

During his reception of PLO Executive Committee member 'Abdallah Hurani, 'Abd-al-Ghafur explained the role of Arab forces and parties in confronting the colonialist-Zionist threat against steadfast Iraq, the Palestinian cause, and the nation's present and future.

For his part, 'Abdallah Hurani said the PLO and the Palestinian Arab people back the struggle of great Iraq under the leadership of struggler President Saddam Husayn, stressing that the Palestinian intifadah is proud of what the Iraqis have achieved in the march of jihad and construction, considering that what the Iraqi mujahidin have realized is a victory for Palestine and its identity and people.

During the meeting, which was attended by the director of the Liberation Movements Bureau at the Revolution Command Council, the Iraqi and Palestinian officials stressed the important role of Arab forces, parties and scholars in activating the pan-Arab struggle to achieve the nation's goals and aspirations.

Confers With Ba'th Official

JN2305170493 Baghdad Republic of Iraq Radio Network in Arabic 1600 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Comrade 'Abd-al-Ghani 'Abd-al-Ghafur, member of the Iraq Command of the Arab Socialist Ba'th Party, has stressed that the Ba'th Party, under the leadership of struggler President Saddam Husayn, will continue to back the brave Palestinian intifadah and the Palestinian national unity within the framework of the PLO in order to realize the Palestinian Arab people's historic, inalienable right to their soil and homeland.

Saddam Congratulates King Husayn on National Day

JN2505141693 Baghdad INA in English 1330 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, May 25, INA—President Saddam Husayn sent a telegram of congratulations to King Husayn of Jordan on his country's national day.

In his telegram, President Husayn wished the Jordanian monarch good health and happiness, the people of Jordan further progress and prosperity and the sisterly relation between the two countries further development.

Polish Parliamentarian Urges Normalization of Ties

JN2305112393 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0835 GMT 23 May 93

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 23 May (INA)—Stefan Pastuszewski, member of the Foreign Relations Committee of the Polish Parliament and deputy chairman of the Christian Democratic Party, has affirmed that the Polish Government's position in support of the anti-Iraq aggression does not reflect the views of the Polish people, who are opposed to this aggression.

In an exclusive statement to the newspaper AL-THAWRAH published today, the Polish official added that the current political situation in Poland, as well as the crises plaguing the country, will result in the inevitable replacement of the current government by a government that takes into account the interests of Poland and the Polish people.

The Polish parliamentarian noted that the government's position toward the aggression has caused Poland to lose the most important friendly state after Europe; namely, Iraq. However, he noted, the Polish people will continue to harbor respect and affection for their Iraqi friends.

The Polish official reiterated that Polish-Iraqi ties must be restored to their previous status. They must regain their previous strength and warmth, he added, because it is not in the interest of the two peoples to abandon these ties. [passage omitted]

Teams Defuse 11 U.S.-Made Bombs in Ninawa

JN2505142593 Baghdad INA in English 1230 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Mosul, May 25, INA—Bomb-disposal teams of the Civil Defence Department in Ninawa Province have defused 11 U.S.-made spherical bombs dropped on fields in Nahrawan region, Mosul, during the 30-state aggression.

Director of the Civil Defence Department told INA that civil defence technical unit would step up their operations in search for unexploded bombs in the area.

Palestinians Said To Tie Jericho to Gaza First Arrangement

TA2505090193 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 25 May 93 pp 1, 6

[Report by Pinhas 'Inbari]

[Excerpt] The Palestinians are demanding that the Gaza First arrangement include an Israeli withdrawal from Jericho. Knowledgeable Palestinian sources have told our correspondent that the Palestinian demand, which was formulated last week, aims to ensure that the Palestinians will not lose the West Bank as a result of the Gaza First arrangement. Foreign diplomatic sources in Israel added that the matter of Jericho was raised recently in behind-the-scenes consultations on the Gaza First issue. There has been talk of granting the Jericho region a special status as Jordan's gateway to the territories, because one of the options for the permanent arrangement is a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation. The Palestinian sources did not rule out the possibility that one of the objectives of the new PLO demand to receive "Jericho first" was to deny Jordan access to the territories already in the interim stage. The Palestinian and the diplomatic sources stressed that in any case, the plan would not be implemented before being discussed in the framework of talks on the "con pt" [preceding word in English] of the interim arrang ent. [passage omitted]

Beilin Sees Gaza First as Step Backward

TA2405113893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0905 GMT 24 May 93

[Telephone interview with Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin by Shalom Oren—live]

[Text] [Oren] What does the Gaza-first notion actually mean: that autonomy will be established in Gaza first or that the Palestinian state will be established in Gaza first?

[Beilin] I did not participate in the cabinet session, and I do not know exactly what the prime minister was referring to. However, if you ask me whether implementing autonomy in Gaza before the West Bank, as proposed by Roni Milo at the Likud convention, is realistic, I can tell you that it is 100-percent unrealistic. It is really nothing new for the Palestinians or the Israelis.

[Oren] Is that because the Palestinians will refuse to accept such a plan? Will they insist on going hand in hand with the West Bank?

[Beilin] We have the Madrid conference agreement and the Madrid formula which we, in particular, want to uphold. The letter of invitation to the Madrid conference talks about two stages, the first being Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank and Gaza. So, how can we all of a sudden backtrack and say that we are only talking about Gaza? That would be a step backward rather than forward. Therefore, those who propose to impose autonomy in Gaza prior to the West Bank do not mean to move forward.

Eli Dayan's proposition, on the other hand, is more significant or, in any case, it constitutes a step forward as far as the negotiations are concerned. Dayan proposes that Israel decide in principle to implement self-rule in the West Bank, coupled with willingness to advance some elements of the permanent arrangement in Gaza. This is a significant, interesting, and definitely new proposal, although not for those who proposed years ago—as I did in December 1990—to talk about a Palestinian state in Gaza and about the West Bank as an area that might link up with Jordan at a later stage. However, to those who have so far refused to talk about Gaza separately, this certainly means progress.

[Oren] Do you regard this autonomy or self-rule as the beginning of or as a hint about a future Palestinian state?

[Beilin] That is altogether a different question. In 1978-79, Menahem Begin came under criticism that claimed that self-rule or autonomy for the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza would spell the beginning of a Palestinian state. I do not know. Some see everything as the beginning of a Palestinian state, while others, like me, say that such a development will come about only if we agree to it. If we object to it and take a categorical position against it, a Palestinian state will not come to be.

[Oren] Would it not be better to talk clearly and candidly about the permanent arrangements rather than the interim ones?

[Beilin] I admit that there is a certain disadvantage to it because, first of all, there already is an agreement between us and the Palestinians to go for an interim period and self-rule first. Second, even if we did not have such an agreement and you asked me whether it would not be better today to go for a permanent arrangement with the Palestinians, as we are doing with the Syrians, the Jordanians, and the Lebanese, I would tell you that I have quite a few reservations about it. These reservations hinge on the fact that to this moment we do not know whether the people with whom we are conducting the negotiations—people who are linked with Fatah's mainstream in the PLO—are the same people who will ultimately defeat their enemies within the PLO and Hamas [Islamic Resistance Movement]. People like me who are considered, perhaps with reason, moderate and peace-seeking are not fully convinced that these people will be able to curb the terror that might be perpetrated by their opponents. The interim arrangement will give us five years to make sure that they really can rule.

[Oren] You used the terms autonomy and self-rule, and the change in intonation over the last few days has had some people up in arms. What is the most dramatic difference between autonomy and self-rule?

[Beilin] The Palestinians want to call it self-rule, and we said a long time ago that it may be called self-rule and that we are willing not to call it autonomy if that is more convenient for them.

[Oren] So, is it just a question of semantics? Is there no difference at all?

[Beilin] I do not know. If you ask me as an emeritus political scientist, self-rule is autonomy except that the latter is not a Hebrew word. However, if somebody thinks that self-rule [preceding word in English] differs from autonomy [preceding word in English], he is welcome to think so, and we are prepared to call it self-rule [preceding word in English]. A journalist recently made a big fuss out of this point, but she simply was not following the news. It has been a long time since we agreed to call it self-rule [preceding word in English].

[Oren] Nevertheless, it seems that the Palestinians regard this semantic difference as some kind of achievement. Dr. Yosi Beilin, thank you very much.

Meretz MK: 'Arafat's Gaza Propsal 'Good Idea'

TA2205145393 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1400 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Knesset Member Ran Kohen, chairman of the Meretz Knesset faction, said that Yasir 'Arafat's proposal to take over the Gaza Strip from a multinational force is a good idea that has to be looked into seriously. MK Kohen told our correspondent Hayim Hecht that 'Arafat's suggestion is similar to ideas considered in Israel and might serve as an immediate solution for Gaza if the PLO can take over full responsibility for the Strip and assure security for Israel.

Rabin Discusses Gaza First With Dutch Minister

Dutch Foreign Minister Arrives

TA2405162593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1600 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Dutch Foreign Minister Peter Kooijmans came to Israel via Lebanon. Mr. Kooijmans will meet Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin this evening. Tomorrow he will confer with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin and Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres. The Dutch foreign minister will also meet with a Palestinian delegation.

Says Syria Committed to Peace Process

TA2505072593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0700 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin this morning again addressed the issue of autonomy in Gaza first. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that in a meeting with visiting Dutch Foreign Minister Peter Kooijmans, Rabin said that it should be understood that even when the issue in question is the permanent arrangement, Gaza is not part of the West Bank; it is a separate physical entity.

Regarding Syria, the prime minister said that all that Israel is asking now is to be convinced that Syria is really ready for full peace.

The visiting minister said that a Rabin-al-Asad summit meeting is called for at this time to guide the negotiations to a positive road. The Dutch minister met with the Syrian president last week and said he found Damascus committed to the peace process. At the same time, however, he did not find al-Asad ready to meet with Prime Minister Rabin at this stage.

Rabin called on the EC to invest in the territories and suggested that the Europeans do so directly, without the involvement of the Israeli authorities.

U.S. Involvement at Highest Level Urged

TA2105155993 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 21 May 93 p 17

[Commentary by Hemi Shalev: "We Are Waiting for Leaders, not Bureaucrats"]

[Text] This week I recalled an article written by Uri Avneri approximately one year ago, prior to the elections in the United States and Israel, which was quite surprising at the time. Avneri commented on the possible results of the two campaigns, and rated the outcomes from the point of view of your average peace lover. The optimum result, Avneri wrote, was victory for Yitzhaq Rabin and George Bush. The worst case scenario would be a victory for Yitzhaq Shamir and Bill Clinton. So far pretty predictable. However, the surprise in Avneri's article was in the middle rankings: in his opinion at the time, the Shamir-Bush duo was preferable to the Rabin-Clinton combination.

Avneri wrote that Bush and his administration had already proven their commitment to the peace process. They had no special sentiments for Israel and would be prepared to do everything, including the use of massive pressure, in order to attain an agreement. Clinton, on the other hand, would be far too much in the Jews' debt. Moreover, his degree of interest in foreign policy is far from clear. The critical factor for the future of the process, Avneri concluded, was the result of the U.S. election, and not the Israeli campaign.

It is hard to expect current decisionmakers in Jerusalem to retroactively accept Avneri's ruling that under certain conditions, continued Likud rule would be preferable to a Labor party government; however, barring any fundamental change in the U.S. Administration's approach to the peace process, Avneri's central thesis will become conventional wisdom. As far as promoting the peace process goes, the Clinton administration is a disaster.

The ninth round of talks, which ended last week, was described as "disastrous" even though it was not. As always, the Palestinians and the Arabs were interested in painting the bleakest possible picture of the results, whereas actually, this round of talks witnessed more significant progress than any of the previous sessions, at least with regard to the negotiations with the Palestinians. When speaking off the record, the Palestinians were less gloomy. Although not satisfied with the Israeli position paper that was submitted to them, some of them admitted to being surprised by its moderate phrasings.

The Arabs in general, and the Palestinians in particular, have from the very beginning aspired to bring about greater U.S. involvement in the process. Despite the progress achieved in the ninth round, there is a growing realization, even in Israel, that the gaps between the parties' positions cannot be bridged without more intensive involvement by the U.S. Administration. The Palestinians, and perhaps even the Israelis, are living on borrowed time. Their respective publics will not let them conduct long and protracted negotiations. Only the Americans can bring about a fast and dramatic breakthrough.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yosi Beilin gave public expression to this sense of urgency when he appealed to the United States through the media this week and asserted that without increased U.S. involvement, the peace process would die. Anyone expecting a furious reaction to Beilin's blunt statements from the prime ministers's bureau was in for a disappointment: people who know Rabin well said that even him, in his heart of hearts, would like the Americans to do more.

Rabin will not accept the United States as a "mediator," or in other words to have U.S. efforts come in place of the direct negotiations; however, it appears that this is now the only restriction as far as Israel is concerned—any other form of involvement would be welcomed. Around Rabin this week there were those who suspected that Beilin's call for "increased involvement" was actually an invitation for pressure on Israel. Perhaps even Rabin would secretly not object to some moderate pressure; after all, one of the opposition's major claims is that Rabin is making uncalled for concessions. If there was some U.S. pressure, at least the concessions would be called for.

The past few days have therefore seen the completion of one of the most indisputable signs of the political turnabout: Yitzhaq Shamir and his government did all they could to repel U.S. attempts at intervention with regard to substantive issues in the negotiations. The Likud's tactics, with this end in mind, was to split hairs over procedural matters, until a discussion of substantive issues became impossible. Now the situation has completely reversed, and the Israeli Government is the one prodding the Americans, gently for the time being, to do more. Faysal al- Husayni's inclusion in the Palestinian delegation testifies to the fact that procedural matters are now subordinate to the negotiations and not the other way around.

But while all the parties yearn for vigorous U.S. activity, the Americans themselves have still not decided how to act. An argument is currently under way at the State Department regarding the appropriate level of U.S. involvement. The "veterans," Dan Kurtzer and Aaron Miller, firm believers in James Baker's steamroller doctrine, are pressing for greater involvement. The "new guys," Sam Lewis and Martin Indyk, who are known in Jerusalem as the "State Department's would-be hawks," prefer a more cautious approach. The go between, Assistant Secretary of State Edward Djerejian, is stuck in the middle. Ever the modern and seasoned diplomat, he is waiting to see where the political winds will blow before deciding which direction to take, while the U.S. political leadership, on this issue as on many others, does not know exactly what it wants to do.

One of the main arguments raised by the "hawks," Lewis and Indyk, is that increased U.S. involvement would not be welcomed by the Israeli Government and may harm its already precarious standing. What is more important to those objecting to greater involvement is the fear of a backlash from the American Jewish leadership. This argument carries weight all the way up to the very top.

Bill Clinton is already busy with the 1996 election campaign, and he wants to keep his precious 90 percent share of the Jewish vote. Therefore, the White House and the State Department maintain very close ties with the recognized Jewish leadership, up to the point of holding consultations on daily matters, even on matters not directly related to Israel. The administration does not want to annoy the Jews, and a sharp reaction from the Jewish leadership to any flagrant U.S. intervention in the peace process, would apparently be enough to severely undermine this goal. Yitzhaq Shamir and his associates cheered Clinton's victory, and they knew what they were doing. However, like others before them, they saw the promised land but could not enter it.

The reactions of the Jewish leadership presumably do not stray from the messages Israel's leaders ask them to convey. Nevertheless, the administration is probably attentive to the undercurrents within the community. The grim standing of the Rabin government in Israeli public opinion is similar to its standing in the organized U.S. Jewish community. The latter had become used to a "strong" government that sticks to its guns. The opposition's complaints about the government's impotence find an attentive ear among U.S. Jews. The incumbent Israeli officials in Jerusalem and in Washington are not particularly bothered, thus ceding the right wing an effective and key tool in Israeli foreign policy.

Neither is the administration subject to any pressure whatsoever on the part of public opinion, Congress, or the media. Public opinion makers are almost oblivious to the Middle East, yet another prediction made prior to

Clinton's election, another self-fulfilling prophecy. The media in Washington is extremely affected by the administration, and the lack of coverage of the Middle East reflects the feeling of journalists that the administration is not particularly interested in the issue. The vicious cycle effect is almost perfect: Clinton's politicians know that if the media is not interested in something, that means the issue is not really important.

The only element left, which may yet save the day, is the impressive list of Clinton's failures since coming to office four months ago. The domestic front is paralyzed: his plans to create jobs have Congress up in arms; health insurance is stillborn; his ideas on taxes are infuriating; he is going through hell over his plans, which will not come true, to draft homosexuals into the army. Wherever he may turn, including Bosnia, the only foreign issue he has shown any interest in, Clinton is in trouble. His Bosnia policy is confused, and is made up of a call for military intervention and reluctance to act on it.

Sources close to the administration believe the Middle East attracts Clinton because of the chances to attain an impressive and quick breakthrough, which would at long last enable his administration to score a proper achievement. It was hinted in the course of the ninth round of talks that Clinton was prepared to take the risk and become personally involved in the process. This was reflected in the announcement that he would be willing to meet the heads of the delegations if a breakthrough was made. It was not, and that is why the meeting did not take place. Perhaps the Americans should understand that the order ought to be reversed: administration leaders must first become personally involved in the talks in order to secure a breakthrough, rather than the other way around.

Today, American involvement is only at the level of government officials, and it is doubtful whether it achieves its goal. It is questionable whether the Middle East negotiations really need yet another example of creative writing from Kurtzer and company. The involved sides also have brilliant formulators capable of coming up with words that square the circle. The peace process requires U.S. leaders and not officials; at the same time, it calls for genuine movement in the field and not necessarily declarations of general principles which do not change the situation one iota. A decisive American involvement means throwing the clout and prestige of the administration's leaders into the area, and making absolutely clear what the only superpower's desires and goals are.

By leaving the job to officials, Clinton and Secretary of State Christopher show their lack of interest in the process. Christopher declared this week that "if the sides show a political desire, we will be able to help achieve genuine peace, which has been denied the region for so long." Christopher reiterated Baker's cliche: "We cannot want peace more than them. They must want peace themselves."

In 1978, following Egyptian President al-Sadat's visit to Jerusalem, a dispute broke out between 'Ezer Weizman, then defense minister and current president, and Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan, over the necessity of American involvement in the negotiations with Egypt. Weizman claimed that Israel and Egypt can reach agreements without outside involvement; Dayan, on the other hand, said that the Arabs will find it very hard to make concessions to Israel and that they need the United States to serve as an address for concessions.

Dayan's theory was shown to be the correct one. It is also relevant today, with an important addition; it is also easier for Israel to concede to the United States than to the Arabs. The sides involved in the negotiations appear to have an interest in achieving peace. Both sides now agree, to various degrees, that the United States must fulfill a genuinely active role to achieve that goal. The missing "political desire" in the equation is not the wishes of the involved sides, as Christopher said, but that of the United States itself. Perhaps the United States cannot desire peace more than the involved parties, but it has to show that it is interested in it at least to the same extent as they are.

All Aims of Arms Control Talks Said Reached

TA2305111793 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 23 May 93 p A3

[Report by defense correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Text] Israel has reached all the aims it had set for itself in the multilateral discussions on arms control and regional security held in Washington last week, senior government sources have said. The arms control discussions passed another stage of development in the last meeting. At the close of the current session the parties drafted a detailed plan of between-sessions meetings, tours, and seminars, which are to be held between now and the coming fall, when the next round of talks will be held.

The plenum approved the establishment of four seminars which will discuss confidence-building measures in the Middle East, to be headed by countries from outside the region:

—Declarative Steps, which will be directed by the two cosponsors of the talks, the United States and Russia, and will discuss steps such as commitments not to attack, and "visionary goals" of the parties participating in the arms control talks.

—Communications, to be directed by the Netherlands, which operates the communications center of the European Conference on Security and Cooperation.

—Early Notice on Military Maneuvers and Activities, to be directed by Turkey.

—Naval Search and Rescue; Canada will direct this seminar which, among other things, will discuss a plan

for the establishment of search and rescue operations in the Red Sea, in which Israel, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Jordan will participate.

The participants will be invited to tours in which they will be presented with security confidence-building measures. Among other sites, they will visit the Dutch communications center, a British Air Force base, and a NATO exercise in Denmark.

Four countries have so far prepared their "visionary goals" for arms control in the Middle East: Israel, Egypt, Jordan, and Oman. The heads of these delegations presented their goals at the plenum session, but no discussion was held. The Jordanians stressed the need to attain peace arrangements in the bilateral negotiations, and the Egyptians placed the onus on their demand for regional nuclear disarmament.

The Israeli goals were presented by the head of the arms control delegation, Defense Ministry Director General David 'Ivri. Israel suggests that the region be demilitarized of chemical, biological, and nuclear arms, through an arrangement in which all of the countries in the Middle East will take part, and after stable peace accords are made. Israel suggests that reciprocal supervision of the implementation of the agreements that are signed be conducted by the countries of the region.

A seminar on the verification of arms control agreements, initiated by the Egyptians, will be held in Cairo in mid-July. The agenda for this seminar will be finalized soon, following preparatory talks an Israeli delegation held in Cairo last month.

Antimissile System Allocated $420 Million

TA2405134593 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 24 May 93 p A7

[Report by security correspondent Aluf Ben]

[Excerpts] Over the next five years, through 1997, Israel will invest some $420 million in the development of the Homa [fortified wall] project, a national defense system against surface-to-surface missiles.

The total cost of the system will reach some $920 million by the end of 1997. This sum includes the U.S. funding of the development of the Arrow antimissile missile, and investments already made in the system through 1992.

The national defense system will consist of Arrow missiles; a fire-control radar; and a command, control, and communications system. Defense sources believe that the installation of an initial defense system "with limited operational abilities" could be made in 1996.

Yitzhaq Rabin, prime minister and defense minister, approved the five-year plan of the antimissile defense system in the framework of the defense establishment's multiyear plan.

The Homa project administration started operating in the beginning of 1991, as ordered by former Defense Minister Moshe Arens. Its first annual budget was 5 million shekels, while in 1992 it was allocated 95 million shekels.

Following the overall cut in the 1993 defense budget, Rabin has cut back on the original development plan of the Homa project. The 1993 budget for the antimissile defense system stands at 165 million shekels, and an additional $400 million in foreign currency, taken from local market resources (excluding the U.S. aid).

This budget was earmarked for the development of the fire-control system, the command and communications system, and the management of the development of the national defense system. [passage omitted]

The Defense Ministry has also designated tens of millions of dollars from the U.S. aid funds for the development and procurement of a warning radar, which would identify the launching of missiles at Israel from a distant range. Rabin has ordered a freeze on the purchase of the radar, and thawed an initial sum of $300,000 to finance a joint Homa administration-U.S. Air Force research project, which would identify a radar that would suit Israel's needs. If it is decided to purchase the radar, the sum will exceed the budget allocated.

The Defense Ministry has decided that an Israeli Aircraft Industry's plant—MLM System Engineering and Integration, which is currently developing the Arrow missile—will supervise the development of the national antimissile defense system for the Homa administration. [passage omitted]

President Weizman Meets ICRC's Sommaruga

TA2405112493 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] President 'Ezer Weizman asked this morning how Israel can rely on a Syrian signature on a peace treaty when Syria will not even hand over information about the missing Israeli airman, Ron Arad. Weizman was speaking to the visiting president of the International Committee of the Red Cross [ICRC], Cornelio Sommaruga. Sommaruga said the closure of the territories violates the Fourth Geneva Convention, particularly in respect of access to East Jerusalem for residents of the territories. Jack Katzenell reports:

[Begin recording] [Katzenell] Dr. Cornelio Sommaruga told President Weizman the closure of the territories is causing human rights problems and leading to violations of the Fourth Geneva Convention. In particular, he stressed the separation of the Palestinian population in what he called the West Bank from East Jerusalem, which the international community regards as part of the occupied territory.

[Sommaruga] Think about the whole question of the health services for the territories, which are in Jerusalem.

The fact that the families generally accompany their patients in the hospitals. Think about the religious activities there. Think about the whole commercial and the economic activities. Think schools, universities. These are the humanitarian consequences.

[Katzenell] President 'Ezer Weizman told Sommaruga that the closure was imposed because of a wave of stabbing attacks inside Israel. It reached the stage when an Israeli could not feel safe even in the center of Tel Aviv, Weizman said.

[Weizman] I explained to my guest the problems, what we had here prior to the closure, and that eventually, things will be solved when we talk about the future of all countries in the Middle East. I do not want to elaborate too much.

[Katzenell] 'Ezer Weizman also raised the problem of the missing Israeli airman, Ron Arad. We are conducting direct peace negotiations with Syria and Lebanon, Weizman said. Syria controls the territory where the Hizballah is operating. Hizballah has been holding Ron Arad for six years, yet Syria cannot even give us information on his whereabouts or conditions. How can we trust a Syrian signature on a peace treaty? Weizman asked.

Cornelio Sommaruga said the ICRC is doing all it can to locate Ron Arad and bring about his repatriation. [end recording]

Civil Administration on Situation in Territories

TA2305090993 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 23 May 93 pp 1, 8

[Report by Yo'av Kaspi]

[Excerpt] Sources at the Civil Administration yesterday said that almost two months after the imposition of the closure on the territories, the situation in Judaea, Samaria, and the Gaza Strip is growing worse from day to day. The sources asserted that hundreds of hunger-stricken families had showed up in recent days at the Civil Administration offices in the territories. This, despite the Civil Administration's and UNRWA's [UN Relief and Works Agency] infusion of funds and provisions. The Civil Administration has decided that these families would receive priority in job placement inside the territories, as part of the accelerated framework of job-creating projects.

The sources also reported that the closure had heavily hit, and even virtually ruined, the fields of agriculture, construction, and local industry in the territories. Since the closure, the domestic product in the Gaza Strip has dropped by 50 percent. The sources said that the situation in the territories is expected to grow worse during the next month.

Approximately 45,000 laborers from the territories now have work permits, as opposed to some 120,000 who worked in Israel before the closure was imposed.

Only 10,000 day laborers from the Gaza Strip leave to work in Israel now. The Civil Administration sources noted that due to various threats from radical Islamic elements and technical constraints in Israel, only two-thirds of those carrying work permits actually leave for work in Israel. Civil Administration sources estimated that since the imposition of the closure, the number of unemployed in the Gaza Strip has risen by between 60,000 to 70,000 people. Those among the Palestinian laborers who have found alternative jobs in the territories are now earning much lower wages. A professional construction worker could make anything between 150 and 200 shekels a day in Israel. In the Gaza Strip the same laborer earns only 30 to 40 shekels per day.

The sources also note that since the government decided to invest 200 million shekels in developing possibilities for employment in the territories, the Civil Administration has only been successful in creating approximately 5,000 jobs in the Gaza Strip and about 3,000 in Judaea and Samaria.

The sources added that the local agriculture in the territories has been dealt a severe blow by the closure, noting that there was no local demand for produce and that it was impossible to export to Israel. Therefore, the only remaining alternative was food smuggling. The construction drive felt in the territories during the first days of the closure has ground to an almost total halt due to lack of funds. The small local industry—sewing and carpentry workshops, etc.—has been suffering from a serious shortage of raw materials that cannot be imported from Israel, and is now virtually paralyzed. Also, between 5,000 and 6,000 drivers who used to drive workers from the Gaza Strip into Israel have now joined the ranks of the unemployed.

Civil Administration sources yesterday called on the government to invest an additional 100 million to 150 million shekels in order to rehabilitate the refugee camps by building 10-story apartment blocks, which would facilitate the development of a water, sewage, and electricity infrastructure. The sources also said that local drivers, who used to drive workers to Israel and to the site of a new wholesalers market being built near the Erez checkpoint, should be exempted from the closure. [passage omitted]

Treasury Says Closure To Cause Inflation Rise, GDP Drop

TA2305180593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1700 GMT 23 May 93

[Excerpt] The Treasury has issued a document warning that inflation will go up a rung if the closure of the territories continues. The document was circulated at today's cabinet meeting. Harley Braidman reports:

The Finance Ministry says: If the closure goes on, all the achievements in lowering inflation to a single digit will be lost. Also, the country's gross domestic product would fall by 1 percent as a result of the absence of workers from the territories in building and agriculture.

The Treasury recommended that 70,000 workers from the areas be allowed to work in Israel: 40,000 in construction, 20,000 in agriculture, and 10,000 in industry and services. Next year, the number of Arab workers would be reduced to 60,000 as an inducement to the employers to modernize industries. At the moment, the building industry is working at 63 percent of pre-closure capacity. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Approves Funds for Jobs in Territories

TA2305131593 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1200 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] The cabinet has approved an allocation of 30 million shekels to create 20,000 jobs in the territories. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that a majority in the cabinet voted against a proposal by Meretz ministers to allocate more than 100 million shekels for that purpose. The ministers approved the finance minister's proposal to implement the plan for a trial period of only two months and then to reconsider it.

The prime minister told Meretz ministers in their meeting this morning that he has no intention of asking them for an additional extension beyond 30 May. Rabin told the Meretz ministers that if a solution to the coalition crisis is not found by the 30 May cabinet meeting, the government will be based on a majority of 61 Knesset members and Minister Aloni will be given back the education portfolio.

Meretz Accepts 30 May Deadline

TA2305103893 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 1000 GMT 23 May 93

[Excerpt] Meretz has agreed to another delay in resolving the coalition crisis. This, according to Meretz Knesset Member [MK] Avraham Poraz. Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin made the request in a meeting this morning with Meretz Minister Shulamit Aloni. MK Poraz says Meretz is ready for a week's delay, even though it earlier opposed putting off a resolution to the crisis. Poraz spoke with reporter David Ze'ev. [passage omitted]

Betzelem Claims IDF Damages Houses Without Cause

TA2405134793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0905 GMT 24 May 93

[Excerpt] The Betzelem Organization today called on the Army to stop demolishing houses in the territories during the pursuit of armed fugitives. At a Jerusalem news conference with the heads of the organization this morning, Betzelem reported that more than 100 houses were destroyed or severely damaged in 15 different military operations in the territories. Our correspondent Moti Amir has just come out of the news conference:

The report given to the correspondent says, among other things, that in 15 IDF [Israel Defense Forces] operations that the Betzelem researchers have investigated, more than 100 houses were demolished or severely damaged by antitank missiles. During the searches for the fugitives, the residents of the houses were taken out of their homes, in most cases the men were handcuffed and held blindfolded for hours, until the Army operation was over. Betzelem Director General Yizhar Be'er:

[Begin recording] In most of the incidents, there were no fugitives in the houses that were destroyed. Of the 15 operations we monitored, during which dozens of houses were blown up, in only seven were fugitives found in the houses. [end recording]

Be'er added that, on the face of it, it seems that the Army is correct in employing methods that do not put the lives of soldiers at risk but, he said, each case should be carefully examined to prevent harm to the population at large just because the intelligence information leading to the manhunt in a certain region was incorrect.

In response, the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] spokesman said: The use of military force to capture fugitives follows from the need to capture them while avoiding casualties among the IDF soldiers or the people inhabiting the houses. It is worth noting that after each such incident, the residents whose property was damaged were directed to contact the Civil Administration and ask for compensation. [passage omitted]

Four Fugitives Captured in Gaza Strip

TA2505074693 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 0600 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Early this morning, a Border Police unit captured three armed fugitives in Bayt Lahiya, in the northern Gaza Strip. Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that last night, the policemen encircled a house in which the wanted men were hiding. The policemen called on the fugitives to surrender. Two complied and surrendered their handguns. A third, carrying a Karl Gustav submachine gun, attempted to escape but surrendered after several warning shots were fired at him.

The security forces captured another fugitive in Rafah last night. He is suspected of carrying out serious attacks against Israeli civilians and security forces.

Security Forces Kill 2 Youths in Territories

TA2405192793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in Hebrew 1900 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Two youths were killed in clashes with the security forces in the territories this evening. A 17-year-old youth was killed by soldiers' gunfire in Nabulus, and

another was wounded during a disturbance in the city. The body of the deceased was snatched from the hospital.

Our correspondent Moti Amir reports that in Rafah the security forces fired shots in the direction of three masked men who tried to escape. One of the three was killed; another was wounded, and the third was apprehended and detained for interrogation.

Sarid Goes to Morocco for Mideast Environment Conference

TA2305051793 Jerusalem Qol Yisra'el in English 0400 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Environment Minister Yosi Sarid left last night for Morocco to take part in a conference on Middle East countries' environmental problems. The opening of the two-day conference will take place under the auspices of King Hassan. Sarid says he will stress the need for cooperation to prevent the spread of desert conditions in the region.

Tourism Agreements Signed With Various Countries

TA2005110593 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 20 May 93 p C2

[Report by Ilan Shehori]

[Excerpts] Tourism Minister 'Uzi Bar'am believes that once Israel and the Arab countries have attained peace arrangements, a common tourism zone could be established that would be jointly marketed and would considerably increase tourism to the area from all over the world.

Bar'am was addressing a dinner banquet held last night at the Moriya Hotel in Jerusalem for members of the official delegations attending a convention on funding and investment in the tourism business. [passage omitted]

In the course of the convention, Israel signed or initialed tourism agreements with Romania, Moldova, Russia, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, and Bulgaria. [passage omitted]

King Husayn Meets Chief Editors, Views Press Freedom

JN2205184293 Amman Jordan Television Network in Arabic 1700 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has declared that freedom of press and opinion is provided for in the Constitution and the law. The new press and publication law, his majesty added, ensures this freedom and regulates the relationship among the various components of the journalistic process, within the limits of public rights and duties and respect for individual liberties. It also marks a step on the road of implementing the rules and values enshrined in the National Charter.

In remarks to the chief editors of local dailies and weeklies, as well as party newspapers, during a meeting at the Royal Hashemite Court today, his majesty added: You are dutybound to observe the Constitution and shoulder heavy responsibilities as opinion makers. His majesty called on journalists to watch out for the enemies of freedom, democracy and human rights, and groups that pursue material gains at the expense of principles, truth, and fairness. His majesty urged the print media to distance itself from abuse, to approach its subject matter in a sober tone and to highlight the positive as well as the negative side of developments. Following is a recording of His Majesty King Husayn's remarks:

[Begin Husayn recording] I am glad to meet with brothers who hold positions of responsibility in the Jordanian press at this juncture in our country's history. I am glad to meet with a group of my brother writers who have borne onerous responsibilities toward rendering our march a success at this critical stage of the history of our country and the greater Arab homeland. This meeting takes place following the passing of the Press and Publications Law that provides for the freedom of press, publications, and opinion as enshrined in the Constitution. The law also incorporates provisions for public rights, duties, and individual liberties. We hope this law will usher in the operation of the National Charter that embodies the law governing the media. I think all of you recognize the critical, difficult, and delicate nature of this phase of our history. I am sure you are also aware of the fact that the success of the law, instead of affecting us as individuals or as a specific group of people, will promote the notion of our country being an example for others to follow.

In the case of failure, God forbid, the consequences and results of that failure will not only affect us, but in my view will set back the possibility of progress and success on the pan-Arab level, in both our Arab and Muslim worlds.

We have met several times in the past. Some new brothers are joining us this time. We hope we will have more meetings, at any time in the future: This is your house.

On this occasion and at this meeting, I warn against the enemies of democracy, freedom and human rights. I also warn—and I beseech God that we will never have them among us at any time—against any of those who can be recognized as people running after material things at the expense of principles, right, and truth. You all have major responsibilities to educate, to oversee what is published, and, above all, to abide by the Constitution and this law that has given everyone the chance to exercise their role in a manner satisfying God and conscience, that serves this country and this march of our and the nation's most difficult circumstances.

Our brothers I have met in the past remember how often I have urged them to rise above slander, to follow the way we handle things with a sober approach and to defend truth, present ideas, and avoid falling into the abyss. They also remember how often I urged them to deal in a responsible way with the pen—the trust we are holding—and, consequently, with what reaches this large and single family that comes from various roots and origins. I have always urged them to confirm things before they are published, to rise to a high level of ethics and to make our conduct, God willing, an example for others in the Arab media and in the world media at large.

I do not think any of my brothers here—by the way, I am not addressing everyone but I am, indirectly, addressing everyone through you—can be satisfied with or permit anything other than this. Once again, there is this law. This country has commitments and duties. I hope God will give us success in carrying out our duties to the best of our abilities. [end recording]

A comprehensive dialogue was held between his majesty and the audience on various domestic, Arab, and regional issues. His majesty stressed overall Jordanian principles related to the building of this country, based on the solidity of Jordanian steadfastness, the clarity of Jordan's political line and Jordan's commitment to freedom, democracy and political pluralism within the framework of defending human rights.

In this dialogue, his majesty also pointed to Jordan's position on the Palestine question, based on both the comprehensive pan-Arab vision and the insistence on reaching a just, comprehensive and lasting peace which will secure the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights on their national soil—peace which will be accepted by the future generations.

Criticizes Pro-Saddam Press

NC2405173993 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1159 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Amman, 24 May (MENA)—King Husayn of Jordan has said that the Iraqi regime under Saddam Husayn "has led us through its practices to a situation" that broke our back.

I cannot continue supporting this policy and this leadership," the king said. [no opening quotations as received]

The Jordanian monarch was speaking during a meeting with chief editors of local Jordanian newspapers. He strongly criticized the pro-Saddam Jordanian political forces, journalists, and media men, branding them as "enemies of democracy, freedom, and human rights."

King Husayn warned against journalists benefiting materially from their support for the Iraqi regime at the expense of principles and truth. These journalists, he said, run after material gains at the expense of principles, fairness, and facts.

King Husayn strongly criticized the "distortion and dilution of his statements" about the Iraqi leadership.

He told the Jordanian newspaper chief editors: "Do not interpret, change, or tone down my words. If they listened to us, perhaps there would be room for changing the situation."

It should be mentioned that the Jordanian monarch had called for Saddam to step down and for democracy, political pluralism, and respect of human rights in Iraq. Some Jordanian papers, however, distorted and watered down these statements so that they would continue making material gains.

King Husayn expressed fear that the division of Iraq into three regions in the north, center, and south has indeed become a reality. He wondered what those journalists could do to this regime, which does not listen to views or advice while the Iraqi people are suffering from the regime's practices.

The Jordanian monarch also criticized the local papers for publishing untrue reports with a view to harming Jordan's relations with the Arab Gulf states.

He praised Saudi Arabia's position toward pilgrims and visits to the holy places. He said the Saudi position is contrary to what the Jordanian press published in this regard.

Police Arrest Islamic Liberation Party Officials

NC2305102593 Paris AFP in English 1007 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Amman, May 23 (AFP) - The spokesman of the Muslim fundamentalist Islamic Liberation Party, 'Ata Abu-Rashti, and a senior party official were arrested in police raids on their homes, a family member said Sunday [23 May].

Abu-Rashti and Bakr Salim Khawaldih were seized on Thursday and police also confiscated documents and video tapes, a member of Abu-Rashti's family told AFP, declining to be named.

The authorities briefly jailed Abu-Rashti in 1991 after threats against foreign nationals in Jordan during the Gulf War.

The Islamic Liberation Party is the most radical fundamentalist group in Jordan and aims to set up an Islamic state based on shari'ah (Muslim law). However its influence is limited.

It was set up in 1953 in Jerusalem, dismantled in the 1960s but reorganised and resurfaced in Jordan in 1990.

Foreign Minister Receives PLO's 'Abd-Rabbuh

JN2205161293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 1500 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir met in his office today with PLO Executive Committee member Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, who conveyed a verbal message to His Majesty King Husayn from Palestinian President Yasir 'Arafat on developments in the peace process, as part of the Jordanian-Palestinian coordination on the peace process.

The two sides exchanged views on the outcome of the ninth round of negotiations, as well as concepts regarding the next round of peace negotiations. The Palestinian ambassador in Amman attended the meeting.

Officials Hold Talks With Dutch Foreign Minister

JN2305202593 Amman Jordan Television Network in English 1900 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] His royal highness the crown prince today discussed Europe's role in the Middle East peace process with the new Dutch foreign minister, Peter Kooijmans. Talks focused in particular on Europe's role in the Middle East multilateral talks.

The Dutch minister arrived in Jordan earlier today after a visit to Syria. His meeting with the crown prince also touched on the Dutch-Jordanian relations. The crown prince spoke about Jordan's democratization proces, the political pluralism, and the country's central role in upholding human rights and civil liberties.

In talks with Foreign Minister Kamil Abu-Jabir, the Dutch foreign minister held further discussions on the Middle East peace process and the European role in efforts to achieve a peace settlement. The talks also focused on other world issues and on bilateral relations. In remarks upon arrival, the Dutch foreign minister asserted the European Community's keenness to coordinate its efforts with the U.S. and Russia on the Middle East peace process.

[Begin Kooijmans recording, in progress] ... Jordan, because I am only a few months in office now. And I think it is very important to learn what my colleagues in other countries feel. And for that reason I'd like to appreciate very much hearing what the evaluation of the peace process is, especially after the ninth round of bilateral talks we have had. We are supposed to play a preponderant role in the multilateral talks. But, of

course, there is connection between the two, and, therefore, I deem it very useful to have these contacts. [end recording]

Abu-Jabir, Kooijmans News Conference

JN2405081293 Amman Radio Jordan Network in Arabic 2000 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Dutch Foreign Minister Peter Kooijmans, has emphasized his country's concern for achieving peace in the Middle East and for removing all obstacles facing the peace process through the European Community and full coordination with the United States, which is playing an effective role in achieving peace in the region.

The Dutch foreign minister said this during a joint news conference with Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir in Amman tonight before leaving for Beirut on the fourth leg of his Middle East tour, which he will end with a visit to the occupied territories and Israel.

The Dutch foreign minister praised democracy in Jordan, considering it a model to be emulated by other states in the region. He emphasized, in view of the distinguished relations between the leaderships of the two friendly countries, his country's sincere willingness to develop and reinforce both political and economic relations with Jordan.

He noted his government's willingness to do its utmost to help Jordan during discussions on rescheduling its debts to the Paris Club member states. He affirmed that during his visit to Amman, he discussed opportunities to cement bilateral economic relations and means to support Jordan in dealing with the economic difficulties it is facing. He noted the need to increase bilateral trade relations, especially since the trade balance is in the Netherlands' favor.

He stressed the need to achieve regional peace in the near future, and hoped the tenth round of Arab-Israeli talks would produce practical results. He praised the outcome of his meetings with Jordanian officials, expressing great interest in the Jordanian view of the peace process and regional issues as conveyed by Jordanian officials.

Asked about the Netherlands position toward the deteriorating situation in the occupied Arab territories as a result of Israeli repressive practices against Palestinians citizens, Kooijmans said that his country regrets what is happening and that he will discuss this issue during his meeting with officials in Tel Aviv. He added that he will emphasize the need to end these practices and ease the suffering of the Palestinians.

In this regard, the Netherlands foreign minister said that his country offered $20 million in economic aid to the West bank and Gaza Strip a few days ago through the United Nations Reliefs and Work Agency.

Responding to another question, he said that he will be visiting the West Bank and meeting with a number of Palestinians leaders, including Faysal al-Husayni, to discuss developments in the peace process and the situation inside the occupied Palestinian territories.

For his part, Foreign Minister Dr. Kamil Abu-Jabir welcomed the guest to Jordan and praised the distinguished relations between their two countries' leaderships. He said that during talks today, the two sides held a serious and deep discussion on ways to reinforce these relations. They also discussed developments in the region and their countries' stand toward them.

Asked about the extent of progress achieved during the ninth round of Arab-Israeli talks, Dr. Abu-Jabir said that the history of the Arab-Israeli conflict is long, and that the peace process would be long and arduous and requires great efforts and much time. He added that tangible and substantive issues were discussed during the ninth round and that these should be dealt with seriously and carefully. He stressed that Jordan is seeking to achieve a just, lasting, comprehensive, and honorable peace based on UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. He emphasized that peace will not be lasting unless it is a just peace.

Dr. Abu-Jabir also stressed the Palestinian people's right to self-determination on their national soil. He noted that during his talks with his Dutch counterpart, it was emphasized that human rights should not be used for bargaining by any side when talking about peace and stability in the region.

Reaction to U.S. Ambassador's Visit to IAF Offices

Deputy Criticizes Visit

JN2305085593 Amman SHIHAN in Arabic 22-28 May 93 p 5

[By Nidal Mansur]

[Excerpts] U.S. Ambassador in Amman Roger Harrison's visit to the headquarters of the Islamic Action Front [IAF] and his meeting with Dr. Ishaq al-Farhan, the front's secretary general, his deputy Dr. 'Abdallah al-'Akayilah, and Deputy Hamzah Mansur, the secretary's deputy for administrative affairs, have drawn various reactions within political and party circles.

The visit, which was announced suddenly, came as a surprise to political circles, especially as the Muslim Brotherhood members, who lead the IAF, used to criticize the U.S. ambassador's shuttle visits, considering them interference in Jordan's domestic affairs.

According to a political observer, it appears that the Muslim Brotherhood tried to throw dust into people's eyes concerning this visit and its dimensions by issuing a press statement that shows the firm answers the U.S. ambassador received to his questions.

Political observers do not rule out that this visit may have negative effects on the party during the upcoming parliamentary elections. Some Islamic leaders did not hesitate to say that the U.S. ambassador may have planned to "burn" the Islamic movement by revealing its links and dialogue with the Americans.

Politicians believe that the meeting will widen the gap between the hawks and doves within the Muslim Brotherhood. This was clearly demonstrated in the comment made by Deputy Hammam Sa'id, one of the Brotherhood's most prominent hawks, when he stated that he neither participated in the meeting nor supported it.

Dr. Hammam stressed that he still believes that the U.S. ambassador interferes in Jordan's internal affairs through his repeated visits to mukhtars, parties, and public and private establishments. [passage omitted]

Dr. Sa'id emphasized that this visit was not discussed within the IAF, but said he did not believe the visit would harm the Muslim Brotherhood because the press statement was clear and frank.

Dr. Hammam raised a very serious issue when he said that the ambassador's visit had not been planned in advance, and had not been carried out in accordance with diplomatic norms. Hammam did not hesitate to say that the visit was made through "trickery." He explained this by saying that an American journalist had requested to visit the party's headquarters to conduct interviews with party leaders, and that the U.S. ambassador accompanied the journalist on a surprise visit without the knowledge of the party leaders.

He added: Had we been informed of the visit, we would have rejected it.

However, in statements to SHIHAN and to the press, Brotherhood leaders stressed that the visit was made at the official request of the U.S. ambassador.

A Brotherhood leader said: We decided that it was important to explain our viewpoint to the Americans directly.

What consolidates this viewpoint is that the press statement did not say that the visit came as a result of deception and without advance preparation.

Columnist Criticizes IAF Stand

JN2305121693 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 23 May 93 p 2

["Viewpoint" column by Muhammad al-Subayhi: "The U.S. Ambassador's Visit to the Islamic Action Front"]

[Text] The secretary general of the Islamic Action Front [IAF] did not commit a crime when he received the U.S. ambassador on 10 May. Everybody knows that his excellency the ambassador has already met with most of the secretaries general of the Jordanian political parties, apparently upon instructions from his government to sound out the views of the Jordanian parties on Arab and local issues. Because the ambassador represents his country in the Kingdom, there is no harm in receiving and informing him of the popular Jordanian position. To reject his request for such visits is both tactless and discourteous because everything is done in the open and there are no secret contacts or agreements.

It would have been better to make an announcement about the visit before it took place rather than wait nine days after it materialized and then be forced to issue a statement after rumors and internal differences regarding the background to the visit became rife.

Despite the issuance of an official statement, one of the IAF officials made a surprising, tragicomic statement to a Jordanian weekly newspaper claiming that the U.S. ambassador's visit to the Front's offices was the result of "trickery," that a U.S. reporter requested a visit to the Front's headquarters to interview the leadership and that the U.S. ambassador suddenly turned up with the reporter and without the foreknowledge of the leadership. The IAF official also said that "had we been informed of the intended visit we would have rejected it."

If the visit was really made in this manner, the brothers in the Front could have offered the ambassador a cup of coffee and declined any discussion with him. However, if his excellency the ambassador was received after an appointment—and I do not think that he would do otherwise both personally and as his country's representative—then attempts by the brothers in the Front to avoid trouble with the Front's cadres in such a way would be pointless. The IAF is the largest Jordanian party, and superpower representatives' contacts with it constitute an opportunity for direct expression of the Islamic movement's stand on peace negotiations and Arab and Islamic causes "in a way that serves our national interests and the Arab and Islamic nation's causes, and we are of the view that others should listen to us and not to those who speak about us to avoid deception and distortion by Zionist and Western media," as the Front's secretary general, Ishaq al-Farhan, said.

In its statement on this issue, the Front's leadership expressed its clear position on several issues, frankly noting that it was against the peace negotiations and voicing its displeasure with the pro-Israel U.S. policy.

This clear expression of the Front's stand is recorded to its credit compared with statements made by several of its officials who are trying to dissociate themselves from the visit and justify it in an unrealistic way. However, there are two points that are not to the Front's credit: a) its failure to mention in any way the siege imposed on the Iraqi people; and b) the Front's leadership's assurances to the ambassador that the Front is independent of the Muslim Brotherhood politically, financially, and administratively. I wonder if the brothers wanted to convince the ambassador or themselves of this.

Party Leader Criticizes U.S. Administration

JN2305130293 Baghdad INA in English 1230 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Baghdad, May 23, INA—Mr 'Ali 'Abd-al-'Aziz secretary-general of the Jordanian Democratic and Progressive Party stressed that the new U.S. Administration sought, in a manner similar to that of the former administration, to impose control on the peoples of the world despite the disturbances in the balance of power in the absence of the former Soviet Union.

In a statement to AL-JUMHURIYAH daily for today, Mr. 'Abd-al-'Aziz said both administrations sought and defended having international monopoly, adding that Clinton's adminisration was expected to play a more national [as received] role in dealing with world issues as it had previously claimed to have learnt lessons from the past experience, and adopted human rights issues.

The Jordanian secretary-general expected that capitalist regimes would be exposed to stronger crises either in their countries or in their relations with Europe, East Asia and Third World states. Mr 'Abd-al-'Aziz stressed Iraq has succeeded in aborting objectives of the 30-state aggression and was efficiently implementing a great construction campaign despite the harsh blockade circumstances imposed on the country.

Paper on Rabin Referendum Call, U.S. Peace Commitment

JN2405093993 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 24 May 93 pp 1, 17

[Editorial: "Rabin's Referendum Is a Step Backward"]

[Text] All signs indicate that Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin is not serious about reaching a just peace in the region. Since the beginning of his era, he has continued to place obstacles before the peace process the same way the Likud government used to do. What else does he mean by linking withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories with a referendum held by the so-called Israeli people?

The peace process was launched by a U.S. initiative and is based on Resolutions 242 and 338 and the land-for-peace principle. Moreover, Israel took part in the Madrid conference, which was also held on this basis.

Why, then, is Rabin linking withdrawal to a referendum, whose results are unknown and which may not be in the interest of the peace process?

Why did Rabin not hold the referendum he is now talking about before Israel's participation in the talks and before resuming them during his era along with new promises and pledges to remove the obstacles placed by Shamir's government?

Why is Rabin moving the negotiations back to before square one?

The peace process was based on the principle of withdrawal from all occupied Arab and Palestinian territories. Without that, the negotiations will not continue.

This fact should be well understood by the U.S. Administration, whose first initiative was to begin the negotiations, and whose second was to resume them.

A U.S. delegation is expected to arrive in Israel within a few days with hopes of activating the peace process. The delegation may inquire into Israel's true stand on the principle of withdrawal from the occupied Palestinian and Arab territories. Afterward, who knows. Will the U.S. Administration continue its efforts as a full partner in the negotiations? Everything depends on the U.S. position and the extent of the U.S. Aministration's commitment to its promises and pledges.

If the U.S. Administration does not exercise enough pressure that would commit Israel to the principle of withdrawal in exchange for peace, especially since it is the basis for the U.S. initiative and the peace process, then the Arab negotiating parties will have something else to say and will adopt a different stand.

The Arab cordon states' meeting which will be held in Amman after 'Id al-Adha must emerge with a clear, frank Arab stand toward the maneuvers and prevarications of Rabin's government and on the policy of procrastination which this government continues to adopt.

Foreign Minister on Israeli Document, Peace

NC2205172293 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 1309 GMT 22 May 93

[Interview with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz by unidentified correspondent within the "Personality and Opinion" program; place and date not given—recorded]

[Excerpt] [Correspondent] We welcome you, Mr. Minister, and begin our dialogue with the question of the Israeli document. After the document was leaked, you said that you had begun an investigation to know who leaked it and how. Did the investigation reach any results?

[Buwayz] Actually the question of leaking the document must be put in perspective. Leaking it is harmful. It is naturally regrettable, but is also harmful. It is particularly harmful to Lebanese interests, because it undermines the credibility of the Lebanese state and that of the negotiating team. It is also harmful because in any diplomatic exchange there is some kind of confidentiality that is necessary to maintain for the good of the negotiations. Accordingly, the harm resulting from publishing the document is, I believe, clear to everyone. As for the substance of the leak, I would like to reiterate that what has been published is neither the literal text nor an accurate and correct translation of the text. You know very well that in any translation there is a certain margin of ambiguity, which sometimes reaches 10, 15, or 20 percent of the meaning of the original text. There are three kinds of translations in such a political issue: A pessimistic translation, a positive translation, and a literal translation. A literal translation is one that respects the literalism of the text. If the text is ambiguous, the translation should reflect this ambiguity and leave it to the reader to infer meaning without implying it. A pessimistic translation involves a negative examination of a document, while a positive translation has an optimistic view of the document. As a matter of fact, what was published is neither the Foreign Ministry's nor my translation. That is to say, it is not our translation. Our translation was a translation marked by accuracy and professionalism that retained the ambiguity of the terms used, while the published translation was in fact pessimistic. Perhaps the person who made the translation wanted to give the text a particular twist. What is certain is that several quarters are in the know about the document. As the French proverb goes: A secret involving more than two people is no longer a secret. The president has the document, so does the prime minister, and the foreign minister, who naturally showed it to his aides at the Foreign Ministry. The Lebanese negotiating team has the document; the Lebanese military team has the document, so do their superiors; the Israeli team has the document, and other quarters are also in possession of the document. Thus, I believe that identifying the source of the leak is not an easy thing to do. In all cases, we have carried out the necessary investigation, but the fact is that control within the Foreign Ministry is very tight. The document was shown to some of the aides, (?my) aides, but there aren't many copies of it spread around in the ministry. Thus, I believe that the possibility that the Foreign Ministry is the source of the leak is almost nonexistent. From the professional point of view, I could say that the document is not circulated within the ministry, at least not widely circulated—it is kept in one place. In addition, the published translation of the document is not the Foreign Ministry's translation.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, some ministers or state officials have hastened, naturally, to accuse Israel of leaking the document, because Israel is the one that could benefit in terms of credibility or what have you.

[Buwayz] Particularly if we recall their reaction to the publication or the leaking of the document; they implied that this will make them not submit documents and only engage in oral discussions or something like that. This is one possibility. I think that there are many possibilities. It is difficult to ascertain whether this was done intentionally and whether there was an interest in leaking it.

[Correspondent] From the political point of view, is there a possibility that Israel could have been the one that leaked it?

[Buwayz] If we take it not politically but logically—logic as the law says is [word indistinct]. Who benefits from its publication? Of course, it could benefit the Israeli side, in the sense that it gives it the excuse not to submit written documents in the future. This could also affect the morale and posture of the Lebanese delegation.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, delegation head Ambassador Shammas said after his return from Washington that the Israeli delegation raised this issue, we answered it, and the matter was considered closed. He actually tried to play down the importance of Israel's raising the publication of the document.

[Buwayz] We are aware of this. We do not accept the Israeli position that the publication of this document should be used as an excuse for not submitting other documents. On the contrary, this will make us believe and even confirm that Israel was the source of the leak. Furthermore, many other documents have been published. A Palestinian document and many others were published, but Israel has raised no such clamor or problem.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, you are directly responsible for the question of the negotiations. With regard to the leak, in addition to the issue of credibility, it seems that Lebanon faced a situation of either denying or confirming and clarifying what was published. Therefore, it seems that the publication of this document was intended to clarify....

[Buwayz, interrupting] It is also possible that it was published to cause some sort of confusion or internal division. There is no doubt that it almost partly succeeded in doing so, if we analyze the internal reactions.

[Correspondent] The initial reactions dealt with the delicate issue—which was clear in the original but was wrong in the translation—of territory, a reference to UN Security Council Resolution 242, which is still the subject of contacts and [word indistinct].

[Buwayz] We are now referring to the subject or substance of this document. I really do not want to say more than I have said or more than what interest demands that I say. I reaffirm that the translation of this document is not accurate, and perhaps also the way in which it was presented was not accurate. What is our view of it? When we first received the document, I made a considered statement as necessary in such a situation. An optimistic or pessimistic opinion in such a situation is not useful. An optimistic view will harm Lebanon's position abroad, and a pessimistic view will harm it at home. I think it is in the national interest for the foreign minister always to act carefully on such an issue. Therefore, I stated that this document contains new elements, which are still vague, and it requires much clarification and examination. Every word had a meaning in this statement. When I said elements, I meant it did not constitute an integral proposal. They are elements that are incomplete. When I said new, I did not describe them as positive or negative, as others may have liked to describe them. I said new, because indeed such points were raised for the first time. I said incomplete, because they meant nothing in the way they were presented. When I said vague, I meant that the vagueness permits different interpretations.

Hence I maintain that this document is worthy of examination with a view to changing and developing it. Lebanon, however, does not accept it, not in the way it has been proposed. It does not constitute an acceptable proposal at all. I believe this is the basic position. When I made these remarks, I was referring to the manner in which the paper dealt with the withdrawal principle, Resolution 425, and the Lebanese state's authority over all its territories. I was giving signs in these three directions.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, some U.S. diplomatic sources tried to suggest that when Warren Christopher met with the Lebanese leaders in al-Yarzah, a discussion took place about Lebanon's position on the situation in the south. These U.S. sources say that published reports about the Israeli document do not spell out the facts. They say the fact is that the document represents the Lebanese view and that the demands the Lebanese made during the meeting with Christopher were actually the proposals that were later submitted.

[Buwayz] No. Absolutely not. The document might have drawn or sought to draw some ideas from the Lebanese position. But it presented them in an Israeli way, not a Lebanese way. Of course it drew some main ideas from the Lebanese delegation about Lebanon's position but then formulated them from the perspective of its own interests.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, to discuss the issue of the territories: Of course, the translation says something else. Nevertheless, there is a reference in the text of the document that non-Israeli forces will be stationed in the south. Is this one of the positive signs, if you accept this description, or one of the new signs, as you have been trying to put it diplomatically?

[Buwayz] I described them as new signs.

[Correspondent] What is meant by this? Does it mean....

[Buwayz, interrupting] There are certainly new signs. They might be linked with these ideas. I repeat, however, that the way in which they were proposed was inaccurate and unacceptable. They lacked accuracy and clarity.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, the Lebanese response to this... [pauses] Has Lebanon received an Israeli response to these inquiries?

[Buwayz] Of course Lebanon gave a very clear response based on the Lebanese constants. The Lebanese delegation, or rather the Lebanese paper, reiterated these constants and clearly indicated that the Israeli paper must be corrected to satisfy these constants.

[Correspondent] Has there been any Israeli response?

[Buwayz] Yes, of course. The Israeli reaction to the Lebanese response was negative. The Israelis maintained that Lebanon was retreating from a former position or at least that Lebanon was not responsive. This is not true. My position on the Lebanese response is the following: Our reply to the Israelis was based on our constants but it was made in the manner they had made their proposal. Actually we replied in a manner similar to the way the Israelis handled their document.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency, it has often been reported that when Israel announces that it will comply with the implementation of Resolution 425, Lebanon will be prepared to form a military or a nonmilitary committee to study the mechanism of implementation. If for the sake of argument this issue is agreed upon, do you see any possibility of working out a solution with regard to the Lebanese track in isolation from the other tracks?

[Buwayz] Our stand on this issue is very clear indeed. We say that Israel must first of all acknowledge and abide by Resolution 425 or by the principle of the full withdrawal from the Lebanese territory beyond the internationally recognized borders without any ambiguity or intricacy. We all know that withdrawals cannot occur at the press of a button. A mechanism for the withdrawal is required. When such a mechanism is found, we will agree to form this military committee whose specific objective is to draw up a program and a timetable for this withdrawal and to adopt the necessary measures for implementing it as soon as possible and in the best way possible. Furthermore, the committee's task is to enable Lebanese authorities to regain positions gradually to avoid the confusion that cropped up during certain withdrawals in the past.

We rejected the formation of the military committee in the past because we believed then that it had no objectives or because its objectives were ambiguous. We now say that we will reject the formation of this committee if its objectives are ambiguous, but if its objectives are contingent on Israel's commitment to full withdrawal to points beyond the internationally recognized borders, we will have no objection to forming this committee. This committee's task must consist of two parts, as I have said: Drawing up a program and a timetable for the withdrawal, and returning the Lebanese detainees held in Israeli prisons. The Lebanese document stipulated two objectives for this committee.

[Correspondent] Your Excellency, my question is also focused on whether there is a possibility of making any progress on the Lebanese track in isolation from the other tracks.

[Buwayz] It all depends on where the ball is. The ball is now in the Israeli court. We clearly say that Resolution 425 can carry no cost as far as Lebanon is concerned. Suppose Israel withdraws from all the Lebanese territory without any preconditions. This would end the direct problem between Lebanon and Israel. In other words, it would end the Lebanese-Israeli crisis. When this takes place, Lebanon will join its Arab brothers in a coordinated effort to discuss the Arab-Israeli crisis, namely Resolution 242, because I previously said that Lebanon is concerned with the Palestinian issue. Lebanon is also concerned with the Palestinian refugees. Lebanon's decision is an integral part of the Arab decision. Hence, Lebanon's decision is part of the peace or no peace decision that could result from the negotiations. Lebanon insists on separating these two points, however. First, Resolution 425 must be implemented without Lebanon paying any price. Lebanon will then move to discuss the rest of the general topics with its Arab brothers because Lebanon is concerned with these general topics. If Resolution 242 has a price, Resolution 425 has no price.

[Correspondent] A reading of Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's remarks made some time ago shows that the idea of a separate peace is out of the question, and consequently, even if one of the sides signs a separate or a bilateral agreement, this still could not be called a separate peace. Is there any possibility of concluding a separate peace?

[Buwayz] I believe that President al-Asad's remarks touched on the fact that there are two kinds of problems between Israel and the Arabs. There are the bilateral problems, which I explained previously. In other words, the Golan Heights is a problem concerning Israel and Syria. The south is a problem concerning Lebanon and Israel. And there are general problems, such as the Palestinian issue, the peace issue, and the multilateral talks issue.

We cannot logically expect all the parties to work out specific solutions at the exact same time. This cannot be achieved. But it would be possible to agree on programming an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan without this entailing the establishment of an all- embracing peace. Peace will remain linked with the full solution to the issue. Agreement over an Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon in implementation of Resolution 425 is possible. However, it does not entail the establishment of peace, which depends on the achievement of progress in the talks between Israel and the other Arab sides.

It is even possible that an agreement could be reached between the Israeli and Palestinian sides on the West Bank or Gaza Strip with regard to the start of evacuation or withdrawal without this entailing the establishment of peace. We are clear when we say that there can be no separate peace. If the agreements over withdrawals can be separate, the establishment of peace cannot be done separately. It can only be achieved through solidarity and commitment between all those concerned with the Arab-Israeli crisis. We have always said that this peace must either be comprehensive or not at all. We have said this since the start of the Madrid conference.

Nobody should think that swift progress on a certain track will achieve a result, because this peace does not belong to just one side. This peace does not belong to Lebanon alone. Nor does it belong to Syria alone, or to Palestine alone. This peace is an Arab-Israeli issue with its own philosophical, ideological, ethnic, and religious roots. It has its own historical roots as well. Nobody can make the decision alone. This decision should be made collectively. If the Arabs believe that they have obtained their rights through this plan, they will make the appropriate decision, but if they believe that they as Arabs—and not as independent states—have not yet obtained their rights, they will reject the proposal. President al-Asad's words fall within this context.

The bilateral agreements that depend on the bilateral problems, and I mean the withdrawals, can only refer to the countries concerned with these agreements. But the peace or the general agreement should concern everyone and should only be achieved through the understanding of all sides. This falls entirely within the context of the Madrid conference. It falls within the context of peace as long as the words global peace [preceding two words in English], the comprehensive peace, acquire their meaning.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, this small progress or this minor positive aspect or the lack of negative aspect [word indistinct] revolve around the ninth round of talks. In your opinion, could the price of this small progress in the ninth round make it incumbent upon Lebanon and Syria to join the multilateral negotiations?

[Buwayz] No. We have actually defined our stand from the beginning. I may repeat that the Lebanese stand was the first one adopted concerning this issue. We were the first to say that the multilateral negotiations are a complementary state of peace and not the peace itself. The multilateral negotiations must be preceded by a

state of peace. We have said that we had no reservations, either over the principle or the substance. We only had reservations over the timing. We always said that the multilateral negotiations complement peace. How could we discuss the complements if the essence has not yet been defined? Naturally, the achievement of progress, which should be essential and basic, could one day require a reconsideration of this issue. But regrettably, we are still far from this degree of progress.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, with the [word indistinct] of the ninth round of negotiations, Washington made great efforts and made a series of promises until [word indistinct]. These promises were addressed to all sides, and as you know, nothing, not even the smallest part of what is required, has been achieved. In your opinion, what should the participating sides and the sponsors of the conference embark upon so that the 10th round will be held?

[Buwayz] Naturally, nobody has a hobby of attending rounds of talks. No country loves to attend rounds of talks. At the start of the peace conference, I said that the objective of this plan is not only to sit at the negotiating table. The objective is to achieve something, and not to sit and talk. The objective is to achieve results. I believe that the ninth round has not ended in a form that justifies convening a 10th round. I always said that the ninth round, if it is not the last round, must at least establish specific constants to justify convening a 10th round that will produce specialized committees to implement the principles approved in the ninth round. Unfortunately, the Israeli proposal has not given the ninth round the necessary impetus. The ninth around was concluded with new points, which are absolutely not enough to justify a continuation of the negotiations or to encourage holding another round.

When there are shortcomings in the negotiations, they must be compensated for in meetings on the sidelines. Hence I believe that participating in a tenth round requires a certain arrangement. First of all an invitation must be sent out. We cannot meet to discuss whether we will attend a new round before we receive an invitation from the conference cosponsors. When we receive this, the Arabs countries will meet to assess the ninth round, the contacts on the sidelines that followed it, and the benefit of holding a 10th round. We will assess all these facts and adopt the appropriate decision. We can either say that the existing facts are not sufficient to justify holding a new round of talks or declare that some contacts on the sidelines have improved the results of the ninth round and so, perhaps, made it necessary to hold a 10th round to build on those results. To put it differently, I have been using this expression: The ninth round should provide hooks onto which the 10th round can hang. These are the facts.

[Correspondent] I think that the public does not believe that the ninth round has provided hooks. [laughs]

[Buwayz] It did not provide enough hooks. Apparently the bait was not sufficient.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, let us discuss the Amman meeting. Setting aside the question of invitations to attend another round of talks, can you give us some ideas about the justification for holding such a meeting?

[Buwayz] As long as we have agreed to adopt decisions only after coordination, consultation, collective assessment, and solidarity, it is necessary to hold such a meeting to make a decision.

[Correspondent] I do not mean with regard to our positions vis-a-vis each other as Arabs. I mean in connection with the peace conference cosponsors.

[Buwayz] Of course. The Amman meeting is necessary. It is necessary to make an assessment now that the delegations have returned. We have not yet viewed the messages, written matters, the background of issues, oral matters, and the general atmosphere. For the peace to be comprehensive it is necessary to know what is happening on all the fronts in order to make the necessary coordination. Hence the importance of the Amman meeting.

[Correspondent] Concerning the conference cosponsors, some people are trying to suggest that the U.S. interpretation of a full partner's role is the cause of the sluggishness—if one can use the term—of the U.S. role and intervention, that is if their position was really sluggish. How do you assess the U.S. role in everything that occurred during the ninth round of talks?

[Buwayz] To tell you the truth, I cannot say that the U.S. role was absent nor can I say that the U.S. role was....

[Correspondent, interrupting] Effective.

[Buwayz, continuing] as we had expected it to be or as we had demanded. I believe that the role of the United States is not merely that of an intermediary bringing us together around the negotiating table. It is not the role of a moral intermediary playing host to us. It is not the role of an intermediary arranging a logistical issue between us, such as where and how to meet. I believe the U.S. role is basic and must be so. At any rate, the peace conference began on the assumption of a pivotal U.S. role. Therefore I believe that it is difficult to achieve peace unless the United States plays its full role, meaning it should exhort Israel to abide by the principles of the peace conference. This holds true as long as the ball is in the Israeli court and it is the party that is supposed to make the first move. I believe that the United States, first as a superpower, second as a sponsor of the conference, and third as a country that wants or has ambitions to play the role of international arbiter, has certain responsibilities. All these descriptions entail certain basic responsibilities. The United States, which has certain friendly relations in the Arab world, must act justly, fairly, and rightfully with regard to rights and also with an eye on its friendships. The United States cannot view its relations of friendship from a single perspective. It cannot view its

interests from a single perspective. It might indeed have basic interests in Israel. I believe, however, that it also has basic interests in the Arab countries, particularly in the Gulf and elsewhere. Hence the United States must abandon the context of interests and involve itself in the context of values and principles and its actual present role. At any rate, I make this conclusion: If the United States believes that its role is limited to that of a logistical or technical intermediary, this will present major difficulties. The conference requires a bigger, more effective U.S. role to reassure some parties, offer guarantees to others, and endorse the principles of the Madrid conference. Therefore I believe that the U.S. Administration is aware of these facts, even now after it has shown all its cards. At least I believe it is aware of the facts.

[Correspondent] Mr. Minister, in the wake of the mostly not positive results of the ninth round of talks, many Lebanese officials, particularly ministers, have warned that a semichaotic state could prevail in the Middle East should the negotiations reach a dead-end. There are warnings and threats that dangers might be encountered from fundamentalist activity here or there. What do you think will happen if the negotiations are deadlocked?

[Buwayz] It is alleged that these negotiations are to result in restoring Arab rights. So long as there is high hope and a certain progress in this regard, I believe that nobody will refuse to give peace a chance, so long as this peace is just, fair, and righteous. But if this process comes to a halt, I believe that it will indeed be interpreted by the Arabs as an abandonment on the part of international legality, the United States, and international justice of their role and duty in urging Israel to honor what is right and just. In such a case, naturally a situation involving a search for other nondiplomatic and nonpolitical solutions will emerge. Such a situation is now being demonstrated by some who do not want peace and some others who believe absolute rejection and struggle by all available means provide the only way out or solution. Naturally, a halt in the proceedings of the peace conference will encourage and serve the interests of all those who from the start wagered on the failure of these talks. It will also serve the objectives of those who call for the use of all possible means to confront Israel, including violence, of course. Thus, I do not disagree with those who say that the so-called extremism, rejection, or political fundamentalism...[pauses] I believe that the fundamentalism that we see in a religious garb is nothing but political fundamentalism based on political considerations, even though they take a sectarian or religious form.

[Correspondent] The part of the al-Ta'if Accord dealing with external affairs shows that the accord has come to separate Lebanon's problem from the Middle East problem. This theme was much promoted during and after the accord was concluded. If you subscribe to this view, that al-Ta'if came to separate the issue of the south from the Middle East issue, how do you see the current atmosphere?

[Buwayz] I sometimes wonder whether the al-Ta'if Accord came to separate the Lebanese problem from the regional problem or whether it brought to light the fact that there is a chance to resolve the regional problem, that this solution may start from Lebanon, that the first steps may begin in Lebanon, and that progress in Lebanon may reflect this start. Whoever reads the al-Ta'if Accord carefully will be right to conclude that this accord anticipated or prepared for a regional solution or assumed that such a solution would start from here. What I could say here is that in all cases, al-Ta'if gives Lebanon the ability to separate itself, even partially, from the regional conflict. I am not saying that the Lebanese situation can be fully separated from the regional conflict. There is a difference between living in a state of war reflecting all the conflicts in the region and of being in control of the internal situation, even if certain matters remain conditional on regional affairs. I believe that al-Ta'if either paved the way, starting from Lebanon, for the new regional state of affairs, or it separated what could be separated in the Lebanese crisis from the regional conflict, while recognizing the fact that it is impossible to separate all the Lebanese considerations from all the regional considerations. [passage omitted]

Dutch Foreign Minister Arrives in Beirut

NC2405060893 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0515 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Dutch Foreign Minister Peter Kooijmans arrived in Beirut from Amman last night. He is due to meet with President Ilyas al- Hirawi, Prime Minister Rafiq al-Hariri, Chamber Speaker Nabih Birri, and Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz.

Meets With al-Hirawi, Birri

NC2405101593 Shanayh Voice of the Mountain in Arabic 0900 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] President Ilyas al-Hirawi received Dutch Foreign Minister Peter Kooijmans this morning. The Dutch minister expressed the hope that the reconstruction process will achieve positive results. He said: My talks with his excellency the president dealt with all issues concerning Lebanon, the peace issue, and the domestic situation. I hope that the peace process will succeed soon because the area is in dire need of peace.

The Dutch minister also met with Chamber Speaker Nabih Birri. He said: The talks dealt with the domestic situation in Lebanon. I have also discussed with Speaker Birri the situation in the south in light of the peace talks. He stressed the need for making progress in the peace process during its upcoming round. The Dutch minister expressed the hope that this important issue will be resolved soon. He said that the Netherlands can contribute to this process in view of its strong ties with Israel and the Arab countries.

Discusses Peace Process With Buwayz

NC2405113893 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] The Dutch delegation, led by Foreign Minister Peter Kooijmans, visited the Foreign Ministry and met with Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz at 1100 today. The two sides reviewed relations between the two countries and the means to develop them. Minister Buwayz called for reopening the Netherlands' embassy in Beirut. The 45-minute talks also dealt with the peace process.

The Dutch minister expressed the hope that there will be promising factors in the Lebanese-Israeli talks. He reiterated that the 10th round will be quite important and, therefore, it would be necessary to achieve progress and peace in the near future.

Minister Buwayz said:

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] Your Excellency, did the talk deal with the return of [word indistinct]?

[Buwayz] Basically, the tour of the Dutch foreign minister is a part of the European role in the peace process. No doubt, our discussions with the minister and his accompanying delegation revolved around the negotiations, peace talks, and the peace process in general. We have briefed the minister on the Lebanese constants on which the negotiating team relies. We also briefed him on Lebanon's stand on these talks and on the concern of Lebanon and the Arabs over the slowness, ambiguity, and lack of progress characterizing these negotiations. Hence, we have requested the European group to play a more effective role due to this group's experience in dealing with the Middle East policy.

We have also discussed joint bilateral issues, particularly the Netherlands' role in the reconstruction and development process and in promoting ties between the two countries.

[Correspondent] Could you tell us if the talks had dealt with the reopening of the Netherlands' embassy in Beirut?

[Buwayz] Yes. We urged his excellency the minister to reopen the embassy in Beirut and to appoint a resident ambassador.

[Correspondent] Did he give any specific excuse for the continued closure of the embassy?

[Buwayz] I believe that this topic is a subject of discussion for the authorities in the Netherlands.

[Correspondent] Did the Dutch minister request Lebanon to participate in the multilateral talks?

[Buwayz] He briefed us on the European group's desire to closely follow up the multilateral negotiations. He was briefed on Lebanon's firm stand on this issue as long as the bilateral talks have not achieved the required vital progress. [end recording]

Concludes Visit, Departs

NC2405180293 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 24 May 93

[Excerpt] The foreign minister of the Netherlands has concluded his visit to Beirut, which lasted less than 24 hours. He left this afternoon after having met the president, speaker of the Chamber of Deputies, prime minister, and his counterpart Foreign Minister Buwayz to discuss developments in the peace process and the situation in the region. [passage omitted]

PLO's Qaddumi Arrives From Syria To Meet Buwayz

NC2505104893 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1015 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO political department, has arrived in Shtawra leading a Palestinian delegation.

He is expected to meet Foreign Minister Faris Buwayz to discuss the outcome of the ninth round of the peace talks and the scheduled Arab coordination meeting of the foreign ministers of the countries involved in the peace process. Qaddumi arrived in Lebanon from Damascus, where he held talks with Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al- Shar'.

Delegation Chief Urges Country To Prepare for Peace

NC2305164693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1530 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Ambassador Suhayl Shammas, head of the Lebanese delegation to the Arab-Israeli peace talks, has stated that peace is not exactly at the doorstep and still needs some time. He emphasized, however, that a solution must be comprehensive and an imposed peace or separate deals are unacceptable.

Shammas was speaking at a dinner banquet held in his honor by al-Kurah's Rotary Club at the Marina Del Sol resort in Anfah yesterday. The banquet was attended by al-Kurah Deputies Fayiz Ghusn and Farid Mikari.

In his speech, Shammas thanked the Rotary Club and commented on the negotiations, saying that the Lebanese delegation is entrusted with an honorable national task backed by a united Lebanese public, regardless of individual political persuasions and interpretations.

Shammas announced that the purpose of the bilateral negotiations is to end the occupation and attain a comprehensive, lasting, and just regional settlement. He pointed out that there is a strong link between the Lebanese and Syrian negotiating tracks, saying both countries draw strength from each other.

Shammas explained that the Arab negotiating tracks are linked in a collective aim to achieve decisive peace. This does not preclude each track having its own peculiarities and possibly forging ahead in one way or another, but a comprehensive solution means separate peace or unilateral agreements are unacceptable.

Shammas said peace is not at the doorstep and still needs time. He added: Nevertheless we would like it to come today rather than tomorrow. We must prepare ourselves for it, whether it comes this spring, at the end of 1993, or some time in the future. How can we prepare ourselves for it? First, the public must have confidence in the negotiators and back them, regardless of hardships. Second, the government must be united and adhere to its patriotic options. This was demonstrated during the last round, which was one of the most difficult rounds in the talks. We implemented the government's instructions and furthered its patriotic outlook. We will continue to do so without fear and hesitation because we represent the state, which represents the people. Lebanon can become stronger through solidarity. Lebanon can only be strong through a successful reconstruction effort, economic and social strength, a firm political system, and above all the citizens' trust. We have been entrusted with safeguarding Lebanon's good. Pray that God will give us success.

Dallul on Appointments, Press Freedom, Peace Talks

NC2505113393 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] In a wide-ranging television interview, National Defense Minister Muhsin Dallul has said that the recent administrative appointments are a great achievement. He denied the reports that the government troika [the president, prime minister, and parliamentary speaker] has dictated the appointments and said that the entire cabinet has taken part in the decision.

Dallul said that he does not believe that there is a crisis of freedom in the country, adding that—as a journalist and a media worker—he is against the suspension of any paper and cannot bear the thought of a jailed journalist.

Dallul said that the ninth round of the peace talks has failed, noting that the Israeli working paper is booby-trapped and that Israel is trying to normalize relations before the implementation of the UN Security Council resolution.

The National Defense Minister said that resistance is a right for every people and that it will only end when the occupation is over. The resistance does not operate from the areas in which the Lebanese Army is deployed, he said, praising the efficiency and discipline of the military institution.

Official Submits Resignation Over Appointment

NC2505091593 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 25 May 93

[Excerpt] As Radio Free Lebanon mentioned in yesterday's "Panorama" feature and was reported by today's newspapers, Prime Minister al-Hariri is exerting efforts to convince Rida Wahid, minister of state for expatriate affairs, to change his mind about his resignation. Wahid had submitted his written resignation to the prime minister in protest of the hasty appointment of a director general for the Expatriates Affairs Ministry before accomplishing a plan he prepared to reunite the Lebanese international cultural league.

Wahid still insists on the resignation on the grounds that the appointment of a director general has foiled his plan. [passage omitted]

Rescinds Resignation After Meeting

NC2505092093 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Rida Wahid, minister of state for expatriate affairs, revoked his resignation after a visit to Prime Minister al-Hariri at the government palace before noon today.

Wahid said after the meeting: I had seriously submitted a resignation to the prime minister, but the contacts that took place prompted me to rescind my resignation and the prime minister asked me to do so. He said he received nothing for rescinding the resignation and hoped he will be successful in establishing a ministry for expatriates.

Clashes Reported in South; SLA Member Said Wounded

NC2505112693 Beirut Radio Lebanon in Arabic 1030 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] A resistance group clashed at 1200 today with a mechanized patrol of the enemy and its agents on the road linking Qal'at Shaqif and Arnun. There is no news yet about the outcome of the clash. Meanwhile, Mazra'at al-Hamra' and the outskirts of Zawtar came under fierce shelling today.

Later on, enemy helicopters combed al-Litani and the outskirts of Zawtar. Lahd militia established a roadblock on Arnun-Qal'at Shaqif road and prevented Arnun inhabitants from entering it.

[Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic at 1015 GMT on 25 May carries the following related report: "Citing security sources in the south, REUTER reports that a South Lebanese Army [SLA] member was wounded in a resistance rocket attack on two SLA posts in the central sector in 'Ali al-Tahir and Kafr Rumman hills. The sources said the Israelis and the SLA directed artillery fire at the source of the rocket attack."]

PLO's Faruq Qaddumi Arrives for Talks

JN2305173993 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1635 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Damascus, 23 May (SANA)—Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO's Political Department, arrived in Damascus this evening. He was received at Damascus International Airport by Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur, several senior Foreign Ministry officials, and the head of the Damascus PLO office.

Meets With Al-Shar'

JN2405162993 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Damascus—The Syrian side, led by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and the Palestinian side, led by PLO Political Department Head Faruq Qaddumi, held an official round of talks this afternoon. The meeting was also attended on the Syrian side by Assistant Foreign Minister Yusuf Shakkur and on the Palestinian side by PLO Executive Committee members Shafiq al-Hut, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh, and Sulayman al-Najjab. The talks reviewed the peace process, the results of the ninth round of bilateral talks in Washington, and the obstacles Israel is creating to prevent tangible progress.

Both sides stressed their concern about the peace process, as well as the need to continue international efforts based on the terms of the peace process, implementation of Resolutions 242 and 338, and the principle of regaining the occupied Arab territories to achieve a just and comprehensive peace. They also studied the grave situation in the occupied Arab and Palestinian territories, as well as the deportee issue, and voiced their concern over the serious escalation in Israel's practices against Arab citizens in the occupied Arab territories. The talks also touched on the upcoming coordination meeting to be held by the foreign ministers of the Arab parties participating in the bilateral talks.

Further Details

JN2405134193 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1200 GMT 24 May 93

[Sana' al-Imam dispatch from Damascus]

[Text] PLO Political Department Head Faruq Qaddumi and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' held a lengthy session of talks today to discuss developments in the peace process and to assess the ninth round of talks which resulted in utter failure, as the two sides have said. Discussion also centered on the domestic state of affairs in the Palestinian arena, particularly following the announcement by Palestine National Council Speaker Shaykh 'Abd-al-Hamid al-Sa'ih that he intends to resign and the inconsistency existing among Palestinians between those who support the continuation of the negotations and those who call for their suspension.

With respect to al-Sa'ih's resignation, Yasir 'Abd-Rabbuh said today in a statement at the end of the Syrian-Palestinian session of talks that the Palestinian command rejects this resignation, even if it is postponed. 'Abd-Rabbuh emphasized the importance of everyone being committed to the Palestinian command's policy to prevent the adversary from benefitting from these conflicting statements.

Meanwhile, the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, the Palestine Liberation Front and the Palestinian Popular Struggle Front called for the necessary steps to regain Palestinian national unity based on national consensus resolutions. They also called on the negotiating delegation not to participate in the U.S.-Israeli- Palestinian meeting on the declaration of joint principles on administrative self-rule. The four factions called on the PLO command and the negotiating delegation to withdraw from the negotiations to pave the way for a comprehensive national dialogue with the participation of all factions in and outside the homeland.

Netherlands Foreign Minister Comments on Arrival

JN2205180793 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1645 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Damascus, 22 May (SANA)—Netherlands Foreign Minister Peter Kooijmans arrived in Damascus this evening on a visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry officials, the Netherlands ambassador in Damascus and embassy staff received him at Damascus International Airport.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Kooijmans said the purpose of his visit to Damascus is to hold talks with Syrian officials on current international issues of common interest, as well as on Syria's assessment of the peace talks.

Kooijmans also said he is willing to hear Syrian officials' views on events in the former Yugoslavia, which remain a subject of study by the EC.

Talks Begin at Foreign Ministry

JN2205191393 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 22 May 93

[Excerpts] A round of talks was held today between the Syrian side, led by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and the Netherlands delegation, led by Foreign Minister Peter Kooijmans. [passage omitted] Discussion centered on regional and international conditions, as well as developments in the peace process and the obstacles Israel is placing on its path. Developments in Europe, particularly Bosnia-Herzegovina, and issues of mutual concern were also viewed. The talks also dealt with bilateral ties and ways to expand them. Both parties stressed the desire to bolster and improve these ties.

Talks End 23 May

JN2305125593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Official talks between the Syrian side, led by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and the Dutch side, led by Foreign Minister Peter Kooijmans, ended this morning.

Members of the Syrian and Dutch delegations took part in the discussions. The two sides resumed their discussion of yesterday's topics. Talk also dealt with the Gulf situation, developments in Europe, especially in Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the expected results of the interntional conference on human rights scheduled to be held in Vienna in mid-June.

Minister Meets al-Asad

JN2305153193 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1420 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Damascus, 23 May (SANA)—At 1230 today, His Excellency President Hafiz al-Asad received Netherlands Foreign Minister Peter Kooijmans and the delegation accompanying him. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and the Dutch ambassador in Damascus attended the meeting.

Discussion during the meeting dealt with the situation in the Middle East and the peace process. His excellency the president reiterated Syria's commitment to the peace process and its eagerness to rid the region of war. He said Syria accepted the basis of the peace process and has offered much to push it ahead while Israel had not offered anything to advance the peace process.

The president said peace is in the interest of the region and the world. It requires serious and objective cooperation and a fair stand by all countries concerned about peace. He added every country has a role to play and a responsibility to assume in this regard.

Views 'Positive' Visit, Departs

JN2305160093 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1435 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Damascus, 23 May (SANA)—Dutch Foreign Minister Peter Kooijmans left Damascus today after a two-day visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. He was seen off at Damascus International Airport by Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', senior Foreign Ministry officials, the Dutch ambassador in Damascus, and the Dutch Embassy staff.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, Kooijmans described his visit to Damascus as positive and useful. He added: During this visit, viewpoints were exchanged with Syrian officials on various international issues of common interest, including the Middle East peace process, as well as the situation in Bosnia-Herzegovina and in the Gulf region.

Hungarian Official Delivers Message to al-Asad

JN2205165593 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1515 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] President Hafiz al-Asad has received a message from Hungarian President Arpad Goncz dealing with bilateral relations, the international situation, and regional issues of mutual interest. Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' accepted the message during his reception of Andras Kelemen, secretary of state at the Hungarian Foreign Ministry. The meeting was attended by Assistant Foreign Minister Raslan 'Allush and Hungarian Ambassador in Damascus Laszlo Kadar.

Kelemen stressed that Hungary is eager to promote its traditional friendly relations and cooperation with Syria in various areas. He also expressed his country's appreciation for Syria's important role in achieving a just and comprehensive peace in the Middle East based on international legitimacy and implementation of Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338. The Hungarian secretary of state denounced the use of double standards in international relations.

For his part, Faruq al-Shar' expressed his satisfaction with the friendly and positive positions stated in the Hungarian president's message to President Hafiz al-Asad. Al-Shar' also asked the Hungarian secretary of state to convey the president's greetings and his best wishes to the Hungarian president.

Kelemen Interviewed on Visit

LD2305170293 Budapest MTI in English 1604 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Cairo, May 23 (MTI)—"In our first political talks after a long break, more than three years, we offered dialogue to the Syrian side, which showed an openness in the matter of developing bilateral relations," the political secretary of state of the Hungarian Foreign Ministry, Andras Kelemen, told MTI's Cairo correspondent by phone on Sunday [23 May].

"My talks in Damascus also provided an opportunity for us to make clear the main points of Hungarian foreign policy towards the Arab world," Kelemen said.

The secretary of state arrived in Damascus for his weekend talks from Jordan.

On Saturday, Kelemen was received by Vice President 'Abd-al-Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. He also held talks with Deputy Foreign Minister Raslan Allus, and with Minister of State for Planning Affairs 'Abd al-Rahim al-Sbeii, on economic relations.

In the interview with MTI, Kelemen said he told his Syrian partners: Hungary strives to maintain good relations with all states of the Middle East region. As regards the Middle East settlement, the Hungarian position rests on the U.N. Security Council Resolutions (Numbers 242

and 338). Hungary supports the creation of full, comprehensive and just peace on the basis of international lawfulness, without interfering in the details.

"The Syrian politicians showed an interest in the Hungarian evaluation of the Russian situation, and mainly the South Slav crisis. The Syrian side accepted the Hungarian proposal made in the matter of economic relations, under the terms of which the bilateral joint committee would be reconvened," Kelemen said.

The Hungarian politician is to open talks in Lebanon on Monday.

Prime Minister Receives Ukrainian Education Minister

JN2405192093 Damascus Syrian Arab Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] At 1000 today, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received Dr. Talanchuk, minister of education of the Republic of Ukraine, and his delegation. The meeting was attended by Dr. Salihah Sunqur, minister of higher education.

Talks at the meeting dealt with bilateral cooperative relations and ways to develop them to serve mutual interests.

Agreement on Diplomatic Ties Signed With Lithuania

JN2505155793 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1410 GMT 25 May 93

[Excerpt] Moscow, 25 May (SANA)—An agreement to establish diplomatic ties between Syria and Lithuania was signed here today. The agreement was signed by the two countries' ambassadors in Moscow, 'Isam al-Na'ib and Romualdas Kozyrovicius. [passage omitted]

Accord on Relations With Latvia

JN2505160093 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1425 GMT 25 may 93

[Text] Moscow, 25 May (SANA)—An agreement to establish diplomatic ties between Syria and Latvia was signed here today. The agreement was signed by the two countries' ambassadors in Moscow, 'Isam al-Na'ib and Janis Peters.

The two ambassadors exchanged speeches on the occasion in which they praised the agreement, which will pave the way for improving ties between the two countries in all fields.

Commentary Says Israel Continues To Block Peace Process

JN2405160693 Damascus Syrian Arab Republic Radio Network in Arabic 1115 GMT 24 May 93

[Station commentary]

[Text] Gentlemen: We reviewed the last nine rounds of peace negotiations and the reasons they failed to make any progress, and discovered that the major reason was Israel's failure to comply with the bases of the peace process. Despite statements by the Israeli side and the test balloons it launched to hint that work was in progress to push negotiations forward, Israel's interest since the beginning of the peace process has been to thwart the bases of the process as adopted by the two peace conference sponsors and stated in the letter of invitation to conference participants.

During the first five rounds of talks, the Likud government declared its rejection of these bases, represented by Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 on the Arab territories occupied in 1967 and in Resolution 425 on the occupied territories in southern Lebanon. During the last four rounds of negotiations, held after it assumed power, the current government, led by Yitzhaq Rabin, tried to cover the Likud's rejection of the basis of peace with vague words that gave a false impression of acceptance.

During the sixth round, the first after the Rabin government took office, the Israeli side at the peace talks with Syria tried to delude the world into thinking that Israel had taken a major step toward accepting the bases of the peace process by bypassing the Likud's rejection of Resolution 242 and announcing that it accepted the resolution as a basis for negotiations.

In fact, this major Israeli step was a merely phony movement in the Israeli position, vague wordplay hinting at progress. There was nothing new in this Israeli position, because it accepted Resolution 242 as a basis for negotiations, not as a solution. There is a great difference between the two.

On the Palestinian track of the talks, the Israeli side still refuses to apply Resolutions 242 and 338 to the occupied Arab territories. Israel's efforts and the cards it played at the negotiations are just words used to cover up Israel's refusal to apply these two resolutions to the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

We can say the same about Resolution 425, which calls on Israel to withdraw unconditionally from the occupied territories in southern Lebanon. So, Israel's principal position in the negotiations is still based on its refusal to comply with the bases of the peace process and on blocking these bases by rendering them meaningless. It is well known that these bases are resolutions issued by international legitimacy, that they are recognized by the international community and by the two sponsors of the peace process who invited the concerned parties to the process in view of the resolutions.

Israel's aim has been to depart from the rules of international legitimacy and to block desirable regional peace in accordance with the principles of that legitimacy. Israel wants peace in accordance with its own legitimacy, in conflict with internationally recognized legitimacy. Israel's maneuvers and use of expressions such as a peace

with two legs—as if peace can stand on its head—or the peace concept and the nature of peace that can be acceptable to the Arab side seek only to undermine the bases of the peace process.

Thus, Israel's continued maneuvers did not achieve any progress in two and a half years of negotiations. Its refusal to comply with the bases of the peace process will not produce anything better.

Press Holds U.S., Israel Responsible for Talks Failure

JN2505103593 Damascus SANA in Arabic 0750 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Damascus, 25 May (SANA)—The newspaper TISHRIN affirms that the reported Israeli intention to hold a referendum on the final outcome of the peace process and on whether Israel should comply with such an outcome confirms anew that "Israel" will not, of its own volition, opt for a just settlement, and that peace will never be achieved unless international will and international legitimacy are translated into deeds.

In an editorial contributed by Chief Editor Muhammad Khayr al-Wadi published today, the paper adds: Holding a referendum on the outcome of the peace process would, in effect, mean placing the destiny of the entire peace process in the hands of the fanatic and extremist settlers, who will undoubtedly oppose any idea of withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories as well as any endeavor to ensure the recognition of the Palestinian people's legitimate rights. These settlers did not enter Arab territories by democratic means in the first place, and so they will not be evicted from these territories by such means.

The paper describes Zionist settlers as a unique breed of invaders, who did not leave their home countries and come to Palestine merely for material gain. They are also, the paper adds, driven by fanatic, racist, and vindictive tendencies. Hence, such people will not endorse withdrawal in any referendum that the Rabin government, or any other Israeli Government, for that matter, might hold.

TISHRIN notes that the largest extremist Israeli party has recently held its general congress in the occupied Syrian Golan—a development that prompted ultra-Zionists to engage in outbidding over adherence to biblical Israeli territory and non-withdrawal from the Golan, the West Bank, and Gaza Strip. To add insult to injury, the paper maintains, the Israeli Government is giving signs that it will give these people the right to decide on the destiny of the entire peace process.

Concluding its editorial, TISHRIN says: These Israeli practices require Washington to act urgently to prevent Rabin from killing the current peace opportunities and to advance the peace negotiations instead of playing the role of a mere spectator.

AL-BA'TH explains that Israeli Prime Minister Rabin has made statements reiterating his rejection of withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories, at a time when the United States considered all parties to the peace process responsible for the failure of the Washington talks.

In an editorial today, the newspaper says that this indicates that the United States is still using double standards in dealing with the conflict in the region and proves that what counts for Washington is Israel, first and foremost. Otherwise, it would have changed its tone toward Israel and would not have equally blamed the Arabs and Israelis.

The paper affirms that when Israel insists on ignoring the UN resolutions which consider withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories a basic condition for progress toward a just, comprehensive peace, and when the United States holds the Arabs and Israel equally responsible for the failure of the peace talks, this means that the peace talks have returned to square one.

AL-BA'TH says that it is not only Israel to blame, but also the U.S. Administration because it has failed to play the role of the honest and neutral partner, as it was supposed to. Had it done so, the ninth round of talks would have achieved some progress in the interest of the peace process.

The paper concludes: The peace process is in a very difficult situation because of Israel's rejection of all that is in the interest of the peace process. Thus, if the big powers wish to see peace and stability in the region, they should work to make Israel abide the UN resolutions and international legitimacy.

Bangladesh

Foreign Minister Returns From Kuwait, UAE

BK2105145893 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates [UAE] are expected to recruit more laborers from Bangladesh. This was stated by Foreign Minister Mustafizur Rahman while briefing newsmen at Zia International Airport on his return home from a visit to the two Gulf countries this morning. The foreign minister said he held extensive talks with leaders of the two countries on the employment of more Bangladeshis. Nearly 60,000 Bangladeshi laborers are working in Kuwait and 150,000 in the UAE at present. During the talks, the expansion of economic cooperation was particularly discussed in addition to the export of manpower from Bangladesh. Mustafizur Rahman said a meeting of the Bangladesh-UAE joint economic commission will be held soon.

Burmese Home Minister Arrives 23 May

BK2305151893 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] The home minister of Burma, Lieutenant General Mya Thinn, said that the repatriation of the Burmese refugees is going smoothly. He stated this at Zia International Airport when he arrived in Dhaka today on a four-day official visit. The Burmese home minister further said that the rehabilitation of the repatriated Rohingya refugees is also proceeding smoothly. Mr. Mya Thinn expressed happiness at visiting a neighboring country and said that his visit would be fruitful.

During the visit, the Burmese home minister will hold talks with the home minister of Bangladesh, Mr. Abdul Matin Chowdhury, on matters of mutual interest including the issue of repatriating Rohingya refugees. It is expected that the visiting Burmese minister will also call on the president, the foreign minister, the communications minister, and the state minister for relief.

Naval Chief Leaves for Malaysia Visit 24 May

BK2405150493 Dhaka Radio Bangladesh Network in Bengali 1430 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Naval Chief Rear Admiral Mohammed Mohaimenul Islam left Dhaka today for Malaysia on a five-day visit. He is leading a three-member delegation of the Bangladesh Navy.

Tribal Rebels Agree To Extend Cease-Fire

BK2205170093 Hong Kong AFP in English 1654 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Chittagong, Bangladesh, May 22 (AFP)—Tribal rebels fighting an 18-year insurgency in the southeastern Bangladesh hills agreed Saturday to a government proposal to extend a shaky ceasefire until August, official sources said.

"They have agreed to extend the ceasefire until August 31 and to sit for the fourth round of talks to end the insurgency on July 15," one official said.

The existing ceasefire, which both sides accuse each other of violating, ends May 31.

The agreement came at the fourth round of political talks between the two sides at Khagrachari Hill District Saturday.

The tribals were represented by a five-member team headed by Shato Larma and the nine-member government parliamentary team headed by Communications Minister Oli Ahmed.

One official said the rebels' nine-point demands are "nothing short of seeking independence," and besides seeking autonomy and expulsion of non-tribal Muslim settlers, they also want a police force made up of tribesmen.

Talks on return of tribal refugees in camps in neighbouring India were also held, but details were scarce.

India puts the number of refugees from the Buddhist Chakma tribe at 60,000 in its Tripura state, but Bangladesh puts the figure at 30,000 saying it would welcome back all its genuine nationals.

Ahmed recently visited the camps and said on return that the tribesmen were keen to return home.

However, a refugee leader in Agartala, Tripura's capital, said they refused to return to Bangladesh saying only assurances of an "early, safe and honourable repatriation" were not enough.

'Angry Activists' Clash With Police; 125 Injured

BK2305124493 Hong Kong AFP in English 1213 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Chittagong, Bangladesh, May 23 (AFP)—More than 100 people were injured here Sunday as thousands of activists battled with police in streets filled with tear gas and the smoke from small explosions, witnesses said.

They said angry activists from the student and youth wings of the main opposition Awami League (AL) fought a running battle with riot police as they tried to march on a nearby rally of their arch rival National Democratic Alliance (NDA).

In Dhaka, at least 25 people were injured when several hundred armed police and students clashed at a university as Bangladesh Prime Minister Khaleda Zia arrived there, witnesses said.

In this southern port city, police fired tear gas and used batons to ward off the activists, who threw stones and fought back with sticks, the witnesses said.

The activists were angered when police moved them from their original rally site, the martyrs' memorial, where the NDA was holding its rally. A correspondent on the scene saw NDA supporters setting off small bombs at their own venue to create confusion in the area.

"Bombs concealed in food packets were also recovered by police detectives from an NDA activist, who was arrested," one police source said, adding that six AL activists were also detained.

However, the rival groups were being kept apart by some 1,000 policemen who had cordoned off the area.

The NDA is led by Khandaker Mushtaque Ahmed, who became Bangladesh's president after the August 15, 1975 military coup that toppled the AL regime of Bangladesh's founding leader, Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Witnesses said he and other NDA leaders were unhurt.

At the Dhaka University campus, witnesses said both sides used bricks and that police fired tear gas and used batons to disperse the angry students.

The clashes erupted after students belonging to the AL and the left-wing organisation Ganatantrik Chatra Oikya tried to break through police lines.

Zia however was able to confer an honourary doctorate on Pakistani scientist and Nobel laureate Abdus Salam at a special convocation at the downtown campus, sealed off by hundreds of armed policemen.

The students, demanding that the government meet their 10-point list of demands, including better housing and food, waved black flags as guests arrived at the university's century-old Curzon Hall.

Over 71 Percent of Export Target Achieved

BK2405093493 Dhaka THE BANGLADESH OBSERVER in English 15 May 93 p 7

[Text] The country achieved 71.61 percent of the export target of 2,500 million U.S. dollars or Tk. [Taka] 9,750 crore in the first nine months of the current fiscal year (1992-93), Commerce Minister M.K. Anwar told parliament on Tuesday [May 11], says BSS [BANGLADESH SANGBAD SANGSTHA—national news agency].

The achievement is 25 percent more than that of the last fiscal year (1991-92), he said replying to Shah Mohammad Rafiqul Bari Chowdhury of Jatiya Party.

The Minister told Manirul Huq Chowdhury of JP that the country earned 930.72 million U.S. dollars (Tk. 3,603.75 crore) by exporting readymade garments till March this year.

A total of 1,064 U.S. dollars equivalent to Tk. 4,055.67 crore was earned from this sector in fiscal 1991-92, he said.

The country earned a total of 4,791.02 million U.S. dollars or Tk. 16,677.96 crore by exporting garments in nine years since 1984- 85.

To a question from Prof. Abdul Mannan of Awami League [AL], M.K. Anwar said foodstuff worth Tk. 101.87 crore was imported from India in fiscal 1991-92.

The Commerce Minister told Khademul Islam (AL) that the government plans to import sugar in the public sector but the quantum will be determined considering the requirement.

In reply to Enamul Haq of Jamaat, he said 2,43,424 [figure as published] metric tons of coal including 18,424 metric tons in public sector were imported in 1991-92.

India

Rao Leaves for Visit to Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan

BK2305040493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] The prime minister has left for the Central Asian republics of Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan on a four-day visit. Our correspondent T. Jayaraj covering the visit says the visit is significant as a new chapter is likely to be opened in economic and cultural ties with these countries. Mr. Narasimha Rao is leading a high-level official delegations which includes the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Salman Khurshid.

During his four-day stay, the prime minister will hold wide-ranging discussions with the presidents of the two republics on increasing economic cooperation. A common strategy to fight extremism and fundamentalism will also figure during his talks. India has offered to these newly independent states expertise in small industries and food processing sectors. India was also among the first few countries to recognize Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan when they became independent of the former Soviet Union.

Our correspondent reports a warm and cordial welcome awaits the prime minister in Uzbekistan. The streets have been decorated with colorful flags and billboards and the local newspapers have come out with special articles on India-Uzbekistan relations.

Commentary Welcomes Tour

BK2305041493 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0245 GMT 23 May 93

[Commentary by correspondent Surendra Kumar]

[Text] India will open a new chapter in economic and cultural ties with the newly independent Central Asian states when the prime minister, Mr. P.V. Narasimha

Rao, begins a four-day official visit to Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan today. India's relations with these countries have deep historical roots. India has had close relations with both the countries even when they were members of the former Soviet Union. There is, thus, a fund of goodwill and knowledge about each other. The task is to build on it. The region is also in India's neighborhood and developments there are of special interest to India from the geopolitical, strategic, and economic points of view. India was among the first countries in the world to give recognition to independent Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan. India has opened its embassy in Kazakhstan capital Almaty and the consulate general in Tashkent has been upgraded to the level of an embassy.

India believes that adherence by these countries to democracy and secularism and having diverse communities would ensure stability and social progress. Both Uzbekistan President Mr. Islam Karimov and Kazakhstan President Mr. Nazarbayev had chosen India for the first visits abroad after the formation of these republics, indicating the importance they attach to relations with India. Mr. Narasimha Rao's visit would, thus, reaffirm the importance India attaches to bilateral relations with these two countries.

During President Karimov's visit, the framework agreement on economic and cultural cooperation was signed as also a memorandum of understanding and cooperation in the banking sector. The range of goods and services promising good prospects for close cooperation between India and Uzbekistan is vast. Two Indian companies—Tata Projects Limited and Larsen and Toubro—are constructing three international class hotels in Tashkent, Samarkand, and Bukhara. Several joint ventures, banking links, and cooperation in civil aviation have also been established. Both the mineral-rich countries are traditional exporters of raw materials and are now engaged in the process of industrialization to achieve value addition to their exports. India has offered great potential for cooperation, particularly in helping these two countries in setting up joint ventures to enable them to move away from raw material to value-added exports.

During his visit, the prime minister will hold wide-ranging discussions with the leaders of these two countries on enacting political cooperation and laying a firm base for economic, industrial, and technical ties.

Commentary Views PRC-Pakistan Missile Cooperation

BK2405135293 Delhi All India Radio General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 24 May 93

[Commentary by defense analyst C. Uday Bhaskar]

[Text] The categorical denial by the Pakistani foreign secretary, General Akram Zaki, in Beijing recently regarding supply of ballistic missiles by China to Pakistan draws attention again to one of the most serious security issues that India has to contend with in the prevailing regional environment. The supply of these surface-to-surface ballistic missiles, the M-11, came into focus earlier when an American daily, THE NEW YORK TIMES, reported that the U.S. intelligence agencies had gathered enough compelling evidence by way of satellite photographs to confirm that China had been supplying Pakistan with hardware for making this class of missiles. While there have been predictable denials from various official sources which may not be able to publicly acknowledge this disturbing fact at this stage, both the background and the implications of the Chinese missiles for Pakistan offers some instructive insights into the complexity of the security challenges that India has to grapple with.

While the U.S. State Department has been noncommittal about these missile transfers, it may be recalled that Mr. James Woolsey, the director of the CIA, America's central agency [as heard], had warned the U.S. Congress in March about the possible missile technology transfer by China to Pakistan. However, given the sensitive nature of the Sino-American relationship and the dilemma the Clinton administration is facing in evolving a judicious policy toward Beijing, it is likely that this embarassing disclosure may have been relegated to the background. But what may be a mere irritant to the overall U.S.-China relationship has the potential to assume more sinister proportions as far as India is concerned, and this is where one has to look beneath the tip of the iceberg that the M-11 represents.

The M-11 is a short-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile and is listed as having a range of less than 300 km. This specification of the range becomes significant since the MTCR or the Missile Technology Control Regime, that China has just agreed to abide by along with the other missile-capable nations of the world, prohibits transfer of know-how for missiles above this range. However, the M-11 belongs to a generic family that includes the M-9 which is a more lethal variety. Also listed as a short-range surface-to-surface ballistic missile, the M-9 has a range of 600 km and is suited to carrying a nuclear or chemical weapon warhead. The ambiguity and contradictions that now envelop the Pakistani position on the Chinese missile transfer should not obscure the larger pattern that is discernible when observing the Pakistani missile program. Currently, Pakistan is listed in all the leading professional military journals, such as the MILITARY BALANCE and the [word indistinct] Year Book, as having deployable missile capability, that is the Pakistan Armed Forces have operational missiles such as the Hatf-1 and Hatf-2 which have ranges of 80 to 280 km respectively. Neither missile has the range to strike deep into enemy territory and so one may infer that Pakistan would have embarked upon acquiring such a capability. This was partially realized by the 1989 memorandum of understanding signed by China and Pakistan which envisaged a wide range of military technology transfer and joint production, as also R and D between the two nations.

First report of the M-11 supply to Pakistan was noticed as early in January 1991 and again it may be inferred that Chinese assistance to the Pakistani missile inventory has not been insignificant. That this fits into an overall pattern of Chinese largess with missile supply, which included other nations in the Middle East, was noted with concern by various capitals including Washington, but with little impact on Beijing. Thus, one notices a concerted attempt by Pakistan to increase its missile inventory which includes the Hatf-1 and Hatf-2 and now the latest class Hatf-3 which has a range of 800 km. This class would be complimented by the M-11 and M-9 with ranges of 300 and 600 km respectively. Nuclear weapons remain ineffective if they are not integrated with reliable delivery system and this is where the M-11 and M-9 in the Pakistan inventory becomes disturbingly relevant.

Tamil Nadu Government Faulted for LTTE Extremist Escape

BK2505081693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 0730 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] The home minister, Mr. S.B. Chavan, has said that the continued meddling of Pakistan is preventing normalcy from returning to Kashmir. He was talking to newspersons in Aurangabad in Maharashtra yesterday. He said the situation in Punjab is returning to normal because of the stern measures taken by the government. The home minister said the center hopes that political parties in Kashmir will become active to create confidence amongst the people. Mr. Chavan said that the recent escape of an LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] extremist from custody in Tamil Nadu has created doubts about the Jayalalitha government's intention in settling the issue.

Results of Parliamentary, Assembly By-Elections

BK2205163693 Delhi All India Radio Network in English 1530 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] The Congress-I has retained the Jullundur Lok Sabha seat in Punjab. The state minister for rural development and panchayats, Mr. Umrao Singh, was declared elected from the seat defeating his nearest rival Mr. Kuldip Singh Vadala of the Shiromani Akali Dal-Badal by a margin of over 115,000 votes.

Out of the 15 assembly results declared so far, the BJP [Bharatiya Janata Party] has won five; the Congress-I, four; the Telugu Desam Party and the Janata Dal, two each; and SJP [Samajwadi Janata Party] and the Bharatiya Republican Party-Ambedkar, one each. The only result yet to come in is from Goh in Bihar. Latest reports say that the Communist Party nominee, Mr. Ramcharan Yadav, is leading by a margin of over 9,000 votes against his BJP rival.

Analyzing the results, the Congress-I spokesman, Mr. V.N. Gadgil, said in New Delhi today that it does not indicate any anti-Congress-I trend in the country. He attributed the success of the BJP in Gujarat to the communal situation there. Mr. Gadgil claimed that the result of the Jullundur parliamentary seat reflects the national mood.

The BJP has expressed satisfaction over the outcome of the just-concluded by-elections. The party vice president, Mr. K.R. Malkani, claimed that the party has improved its performance in Gujarat and Maharashtra. The party, however, demanded recounting in the Yelahanka assembly constituency in Karnataka, alleging there were some irregularities in the counting.

Meanwhile, in Bihar, repolling in 75 booths of Patna Lok Sabha constituency ended peacefully today. The state home secretary, Mr. J.L. Arya, told our Patna correspondent that counting of votes for the constituency will begin at 0800 after getting clearance from the Election Commission.

Iran

Warplanes Attack Mojahedin-e Khalq Bases in Iraq

NC2505081793 Paris AFP in English 0741 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Nicosia, May 25 (AFP)—Iranian warplanes on Tuesday [25 May] raided two rebel bases in neighbouring Iraq without causing rebel casualties, the opposition Mojahedin-e Khalq reported.

The Mojahedin said the raids targeted the bases of Ashraf and Jalula in eastern Iraq near the border with Iran.

An Iranian warplane was hit by anti-aircraft fire from Ashraf, where a fuel tank on the ground was set ablaze in the raid, it said in a communique received in Nicosia.

A Mojahedin spokesman reported no casualties among the group's fighters but said nearby Iraqi villages may have been hit.

There was no immediate confirmation of the raids from Tehran.

But Iran vowed last week to track down and crush rebel fighters infiltrating from Iraq, notably the Mojahedin, the main armed opposition group.

Brigadier General Mohammad 'Ali Ja'fari said the security forces were determined to pursue "anti-revolutionary elements" infiltrating Iran through the northwestern border with Iraq.

"We cannot tolerate our enemies to arm themselves on the other side of the border and attack Iranian soil," said the commander of the Revolutionary Guards' ground forces.

Ja'fari described the infiltrations as "provocation meant to overshadow" the June 11 presidential election in Iran.

President Receives Indonesian Industry Minister

LD2505124293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] This morning President Hashemi-Rafsanjani received the Indonesian minister of industry and technology.

During the meeting the Indonesian minister of industry and technology said he was greatly impressed by Iranian advances since the Islamic revolution and added that through reliance on its own resources the Islamic ummah could find ways and means of development.

Pointing to the common religious and cultural bonds between the people of Iran and Indonesia, he called for the expansion of cooperation between the two countries in all fields of interest.

Then Mr. Rafsanjani expressed satisfaction that Indonesia intends to use technology and human resources within Islamic criteria and said: Since the uprising in Indonesia we have been following the development of your people.

Pointing out that Indonesia was the most populated Islamic country the president said: The two countries could have more serious relations.

Stressing the extremely good conditions of natural and human resources in Iran he said: We welcome the expansion of cooperation among Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, and Iran.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani hoped that the trip by the Indonesian minister of industry and technology and the future visit by Indonesian President Suharto to Iran will be in the interests of the people of the two countries, the region, and the world.

Hungarian Agriculture Minister Arrives in Tehran

LD2405080393 Tehran IRNA in English 0735 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 24, IRNA—Hungarian Minister of Agriculture, Janos Szabo, arrived in Tehran Monday morning and was greeted at the airport by his Iranian counterpart, Isa' Kalantari.

During his four-day stay here, the Hungarian minister, who is heading an economic delegation, will hold talks with the Iranian vice-president as well as other high ranking officials on issues of common interest.

He will also inspect a number of agricultural projects.

The agriculture minister is the co-chairman of the Tehran-Budapest Joint Commission.

Comments on Cooperation

LD2505124193 Tehran IRNA in English 1015 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 25, IRNA—Hungarian Minister of Agriculture Janos Szabo here Tuesday [25 May] underlined existing potentials both in Tehran and Budapest for fruitful agricultural cooperation.

Janos, speaking in a meeting with his Iranian counterpart 'Isa Kalantari, noted that Iran could invest in foodstuff industry in Hungary and export its products directly to European markets. Kalantari, also head of Iran-Hungary joint economic commission, said that both countries were passing through relatively difficult period with Iran experiencing its economic adjustment. He added that although economic adjustment would have certain impacts on agricultural issues, it would make agriculture brisk and farmers would experience its advantages in future.

Kalantari pointed to joint activities in research works, improvement of seeds, technology, agricultural industry and training of experts as potential fields for mutual cooperation.

Arvand-6 Maneuvers Conclude in Shiraz

LD2405115493 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] The last phase of the great maneuvers was carried out today by the ground forces of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Darengon region of Shiraz under the code-name Arvand-6 and with the code Ya Mehdi Adrekni [Help me, Oh the coming messiah].

In this phase of the Arvand-6 maneuvers, the combatants of the infantry, armored, artillery, combat-engineering, airborne, and anti-aircraft units of ground forces were supported by the fast-flying jet fighters of the Shiraz airbase.

First in the operations, the position of the imaginary enemy was attacked by the fighter-bombers of the Islamic Republic Air Force.

Then the participating forces carried out heavy primary bombardment and established paths among barricades as well as real mine fields. With the support of tanks and personnel carriers, they then attacked predetermined targets.

Meanwhile, helicopter gunships and personnel carriers poured fire on the positions of the imaginary enemy to speed up the advance of their own forces beyond the enemy positions.

In the last phase of the great Arvand-6 maneuvers, the participating forces defended the captured areas, watched the movements of the imaginary enemy, and carried out anti-chemical attack operations.

According to an IRIB [Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting] report, at the conclusion of the Arvand-6 maneuvers, the commander of the Fars operational region discussed the aims of the maneuvers. He said: More than anything else, it was intended to mark the anniversary of the proud Beyt ol-Moqaddas operations and the auspicious liberation of Khorramshahr. However, other goals—including the upgrade of the military education of ground forces personnel of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran, particularly the commanders in the planning and implementing tactical operations, night and day operations, and practical experience in dealing with chemical attacks—were kept in mind while planning the maneuvers.

On the characteristic and creativeness of the maneuvers, he pointed to the use of electronic warfare units, use of combat engineering in building bridges and barricades, and proper use of bombings by artillery units and aircraft, as well as airborne units.

IRGC Chief Stresses Importance of Elections

NC2505101693 Tehran SALAM in Persian 11 May 93 p 1

[Text] Esfahan, SALAM correspondent—The commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps has described the upcoming presidential elections as a determining factor in the issues of Abu Musa and of human rights.

Our correspondent reports that yesterday Major General Mohsen Reza'i, who was speaking to the administrative officials and commanders of the various towns of Esfahan Province said: Our war has not come to an end yet. Today the issue is one of expansion; and Abu Musa is a war of expansion.

He said: After passing through the first ambush, which was the imposed war, we are now facing a second ambush by the enemy. If we have a major turnout for the elections our enemies will realize that their pressure was not effective. The people should know that each additional vote will be like a rocket fired at the enemy. In conclusion, Maj. Gen. Reza'i requested that a war museum be set up in Esfahan to keep alive the memory of the nation's epics.

Nateq-Nuri Addresses Law Enforcement Forces Officers

LD2305175993 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1430 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Law enforcement inspection commanders and officers from all over the country met with Majles Speaker Nateq-Nuri this morning.

At the meeting, Nateq-Nuri described the important mission and role of the law enforcement forces in preserving order in the country. He said: After defeat in the imposed war, the enemy began its attack by means of cultural onslaught and narcotics. It is the law enforcement forces that should fight on the front lines against these attacks. He added: The enemies have invested a great deal in order to achieve their objectives. First of all, they seek to render the young indifferent toward the revolution and Islam's values. This is a difficult war and they have to be fought at each turn. Fortunately, the law enforcement forces have also carried out their mission in this fight excellently.

Concluding his remarks, Nateq-Nuri called on the law enforcement forces seriously to confront manifestations of corruption and failure to conform fully with the Islamic dress code [bad-hejabi]. He declared that the Majles is prepared to eliminate possible legal shortcomings in relation to the confrontation of manifestations of this kind.

Habibi Outlines Economic Growth Since 1988

LD2405123993 Tehran IRNA in English 1135 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 24, IRNA—The average production growth rate of the country during 1367-71 (21 March 1988-20 March 1992) was 7.7 percent, said government spokesman Hasan Habibi here Sunday. Speaking to reporters after a session of the cabinet ministers Habibi, who is also first vice-president, added that in agricultural sector the growth rate was 5.8 percent, 1.3 percent more than what [was] envisaged. The figures for oil, industry and energy sectors were 9.3, 12.7 and 16.6 percent respectively, the latter figure twice as predicted, he added.

Habibi also said that proportion of development budgets to overall government expenditures in 1367 was 19.4 which increased to 29.3 in 1371, a growth rate with no precedent in the state budget in the past 27 years.

As for healthcare services, he said that child mortality rate was about 45 per thousand in 1367, adding that the figure lowered to 32 per thousand which is acceptable by the World Health Organization (WHO). Meanwhile, the mortality rate in mothers who die due to pregnancy-related illness declined from 90 to 40 per 100,000.

Turning to supply of water in rural areas, the government spokesman said the rate of access to fresh water in rural areas increased from 70 percent in 1367 to 84 percent in 1371. Moreover, he added, 20 dams are presently under construction and studies are underway for the construction of 100 more. Such a huge plan for dam construction had no precedent in the country, he elaborated, adding that during the same period, some 4.5 billion cubic meters of water had been channelled for agricultural and drinking purposes.

As for agricultural growth in 1371 compared to 1367 and 1368, he said the growth rate of wheat production went up from 7 to 10.3 million tons, of rice from 854,000 tons to 2.5 million tons and of sugar beet from 3.53 to 6 million tons.

In the industrial and mining sector, the production of steel during the mentioned period rose from 1.34 to 3.53 million tons, of copper from 51,000 to 106,000 tons, of aluminium from 28,000 to 74,000 tons and of iron ore from 1.805 to 5.666 million tons.

The overall electricity production in 1367 was 43.5 billion kwh [kilowatt hours] which increased to 65.5 billion kwh in 1371.

According to Habibi, the cabinet ministers also approved that Iranian male students abroad be given a period of two years to enrol for military service after being graduated. The deadline was previously one year.

Industries Minister Comments on Growth

LD2405190193 Tehran IRIB Television First Program Network in Persian 1630 GMT 24 May 93

[Excerpts] Industries Minister Mohammad Ne'matzadeh, who is in Miyaneh participating in a seminar on the growth and expansion of industry and mines, spoke to our correspondent in Tabriz. We draw your attention to this interview.

[Begin recording] [Unidentified correspondent] The first five-year plan is coming to an end. Please tell us about the performance of the Industries Ministry during this period.

[Ne'matzadeh] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. [passage omitted] Fortunately, it can be said that we had good growth in industry as a whole. The share of industry in the gross domestic product has increased from 10 to approximately 17 percent. The Industries, Heavy Industries, and Mines and Metals Ministries have experienced growth in all fields—in consumer products as well as average and investment growth.

As far as projects are concerned, we have been able to complete and render operational 4,000 industrial units in the past four years, and 1,000 more units, God willing, have been envisaged for completion this year [ending 21 March 1994]. Thus, on the whole, it can be said that 5,000 new industrial units within the Industries Ministry are in the process of being added to the country's capacity. What is worth noting is that these are mostly situated away from provincial centers and Tehran, so we are also experiencing a kind of automatic industrial growth. Of course, because it was necessary for us in the first five-year plan to complete half-finished projects, we were unable to do too much planning for industrial growth. But some projects have started in these past years and, God willing, we will be able to see their results this year and during the coming years.

With regard to activating industries, this has been done in such a way that we have seen its effects in industry's share in the gross domestic product. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Majles Views Bill Banning Commissions on Foreign Deals

LD2305121193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] The generalities of a bill banning the receipt of commissions on foreign deals were approved in today's open session of the Majles. Our correspondent reports:

The bill, which has a single urgency and is aimed at preventing any kind of political or financial abuse of foreign contracts, was proposed by a number of Majles deputies. It foresees appropriate legal punishments for anyone who receives any kind of commission. Those favoring the bill said in its defense that the receipt of any kind of commission on foreign deals by purchasing agents is not only a waste of public property but a factor contributing to the import of poor quality foreign goods. Opponents of the bill, for their part, while accepting the harm caused by the receipt of commissions, expressed the view that, with the stipulation of appropriate legal punishments for those who receive commissions in Article 93 of the Islamic punishment bill, which has been approved in its first reading in the Majles, the approval of the proposed bill would constitute a duplicate and incomplete measure.

With the approval of the bill in today's first reading, the task of examining the details, in the second reading, will begin in the open Majles session due to be held on Tuesday [25 May].

Mr. Nateq-Nuri, the Majles speaker, spoke at the beginning of today's open Majles session in praise of the sacrifices made by the capable combatants of Islam in the operations which led to the liberation of Khorramshahr [during the Iran-Iraq war], and he described the Beyt ol-Moqaddas operations as a high point in Iran's victories and a turning-point for all the pride-inspiring deeds of the children of Islam during the eight years of holy defense.

The Majles speaker described the misguided policy of liberals and those who claimed to be nationalists and defenders of the country's territory as the reason behind the fall of Khorramshahr, and, speaking about the importance of the liberation of Khorramshahr in foiling the evil aims of Saddam and his allies, he said: Despite all the support given by the West and global arrogance to the 'Aflaqi [reference to Michel 'Aflaq, Ba'th Party co-founder] government and all-sided military support for Iraq, the Armed Forces liberated Khorramshahr with solidarity, coordination, and tremendous effort by the children of Islam. The United States and its allies were so terrified by this great victory that the American Congress assigned a committee the task of studying Iraq's defeat and Iran's victory. This fact revealed the sensitivity, importance, and greatness of the achievement made by the combatants of Islam.

He conveyed his greetings to the Islamic ummah on the anniversary of the liberation of Khorramshahr and honored the memory of the proud martyrs.

Bill Approved

LD2505125193 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 25 May 93

[Excerpt] The Islamic Majles, during its open session today, approved the urgent draft bill to forbid charging commissions in foreign transactions. On the basis of this bill those working for the state and employees of the municipalities who have charged commission when signing foreign contracts since 1358 [year beginning 21 March 1989] must return any earnings from such commission charges to the treasury.

We draw your attention to a report dispatched by our parliamentary correspondent on the draft bill approved by the Islamic Majles today:

[Unidentified correspondent] On the basis of the aforementioned draft bill, the three state authorities, state organizations, companies, the Armed Forces, the revolutionary organs, the municipalities, and all their affiliated departments are forbidden in their foreign dealings to accept, directly or indirectly, any form of commission, including cash, payment in kind, or promissory notes for receipt of cash or assets.

In addition to being ordered to return the commission or its equivalent to the government, offenders will be condemned to a punitive imprisonment term of two to five years and a fine equal to the commission charged.

Also on the basis of the notes of this draft bill, first time offenders will face the minimum punishment described above. The return of the commission charged or its equivalent to the state applies from the first of Farvardin 1358 [beginning 21 March 1989]. That is, all the individuals who have charged commission since this date must return their earnings to the government.

The third note in this draft bill says: If a person who accepts a commission does so with the approval of his head of department and deposits all the earnings into the treasury account, the recipient will be exempt from this single-article draft bill. [passage omitted]

Delegate States Human Rights Priorities at Budapest Meeting

LD2205163293 Tehran IRNA in English 1523 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Tehran, May 22, IRNA—An Iranian delegate to the interparliamentary symposium in Budapest on Friday outlined the priorities of human rights and said that talk about freedom of speech and thought holds no water for millions of people suffering from poverty and hunger.

Sa'id Raja'i Khorasani, who is also secretary of the Majles (parliament) Human Rights Committee, stressed that development, which was the first priority for many Third World countries should be viewed as one of the aims of human rights.

Raja'i Khorasani briefed the symposium on the duties of the Human Rights Committee recently established by the Majles (parliament), and said that it will focus on human rights issues at the national and international levels. On the issue of minority rights, he said there should be a correct definition of the rights of minorities so that no one can exploit the matter.

The four day symposium sponsored by the Interparliamentary Union opened in Hungarian capital Thursday attended by representatives from 50 countries including the Islamic Republic of Iran. The Iranian delegation is being led by Majles deputy Mrs. Maryam Behruzi.

Broadcasting Chief Warns of Dangers of Satellite TV

LD2405122293 Tehran Voice of the Islamic Republic of Iran First Program Network in Persian 0930 GMT 24 May 93

[Excerpt] The 19th session of the executive council of the Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development, AIBD, opened in Tehran this morning with a speech by Mr Mohammad Hashemi, the head of the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In the opening session of the conference, which is being attended by representatives from 22 countries of the Asia-Pacific region, as well as by observers from the Union of Asia-Pacific Broadcasting, UNESCO, the UN Development Office, the International Telecommunications Association, and a number of officials from the Voice and Vision, Mr Mohammad Hashemi spoke of a rapid mass invasion by satellites and, describing the harmful cultural effects of some of the programs broadcast using these satellites, said: Over 120 satellite television channels can now be received by the general public and many of them are a threat to the beliefs and ideas of societies. Elsewhere in his remarks, the head of the Voice and Vision spoke of the need to make fundamental changes to the structure of radio-television programs to create the cultural preparedness to confront invading, destructive cultures and to promote the cultural development of young people in Third World and Islamic countries.

Mr Mohammad Hashemi added: The Asia-Pacific Institute for Broadcasting Development, as the only regional organization of its kind, must play a fundamental and decisive role alongside the educational organizations of different countries. It must take on a unique role in educational activities and even in the cultural planning of member countries. [passage omitted]

Israeli Allegations Over Nuclear Activity Questioned

NC2105155693 Tehran ABRAR in Persian 8 May 93 p 12

[Commentary by Mohammad Reza Khodaqolipur: "How Should We Confront Israel's Threats?"]

[Text] Last week, an Israeli parliamentarian called on Israel's Western allies to seize the initiative in confronting what he called Iran's "plans to manufacture nuclear arms" as soon as possible.

Israeli Labor Party politician Efrayim Sneh threatened that if the West does not think of ways to confront Iran's immense nuclear plans, Israel will think of ways to directly confront the issue itself.

This is not the first time Israeli officials have spoken of a direct confrontation with Iran and turned to their Western allies for help. The most important reason behind the constant pretexts being propounded by Israel is that the intifadah's views were influenced by Iran and that Iran seriously opposes the compromising Arab-Israeli peace process.

There is no doubt that for months now, the West and Israel have pointed the sharp blade of their propaganda at Iran. It is easy for any impartial observer immediately to discern the propaganda angle in the allegations being made against Iran.

We should determine the stance of Iranian officials in confronting these direct threats. Israel has repeatedly threatened to destroy "nuclear arms manufacturing centers" in Iran and Iranian officials too have repeatedly refuted the existence of such centers.

Competent international authorities have been informed of this.

We should identify the centers to which Israel refers and says it intends to destroy.

Doesn't Israel's insistence that nuclear arms manufacturing centers exist in Iran aim to portray Iran's peaceful nuclear activities to the world as Iran's involvement in banned nuclear activity?

What will be the reaction if, the day after Israel is certain it has told the world that our country's peaceful nuclear activities are really the manufacture of nuclear arms, it attempts an assault against our country similar to that against Iraq in the 1980's?

Have our country's military experts identified Israel's nuclear centers so that if there is an Israeli military assault, we can respond rapidly? We should avoid a conservative approach to the repeated threats by the Zionist officials and should not be content with a mere verbal confrontation. Our country's armed forces should seriously study ways to inflict reciprocal blows on Israel so that any first attack by Israel will also be its last.

Claims of Support for Terrorists, Radicals Dismissed

NC2105142193 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 12 May 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Reliance on Providence"]

[Text] The leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah 'Ali Khamene'i said recently during a trip to the northern Iranian city of Nowshahr that claims by the world arrogance that Iran is involved in terrorist activities or that it violates human rights and so on amount to mere pretexts for the enemies to fight the Islamic Revolution in Iran. Meanwhile, Egyptian President Mubarak began a tour of the Persian Gulf Arab states Sunday with the intention of re-focusing attention on the alleged "threat from Iran to Arab states"!

Ever since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in 1979, some Western media and Arab countries have on and off tried to accuse Iran of supporting "terrorism" and radicalism internationally. In spite of their claims there has not been a single shred of concrete evidence to substantiate such baseless accusations. Without a doubt, the Muslim Iran will be happy to hear about the welfare and prosperity of Muslims anywhere in the world, because of the sense of Islamic brotherhood and the love Iranians have for their Muslim brothers and sisters. However, resorting to terrorist activities of any sort for any reason is forbidden in Islam and is thus condemned by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

As a victim of terrorism itself, Tehran has never intended to resort to terror or violent means to export its ideology and lifestyle. The Islamic school of thought is rich and strong enough and indeed this is why we see that in spite of all sorts of pressures and anti-Islamic propaganda, great number of people peacefully voted for the Islamic Salvation Front to win parliamentary election in Algeria. True Muslims do not need to resort to aggression for gaining power. Indeed this has been the strategy of all Muslims. However, unable to deal with them peacefully and logically, the opponents of Muslims have usually resorted to violence and false propaganda to suppress those who seek the genuine Islam.

Both the governments of Algeria and Egypt have accused Tehran of financially supporting Muslim activists in their countries without presenting a single proof for their baseless claim. Iran suffered eight years of Iraqi imposed war which inflicted billions of dollars worth of damage on Iran's infrastructure that will take years to rebuild. For economic reasons, therefore, it is very unlikely to see Tehran spending its needed hard currency on Islamic groups.

Indeed it is the heartfelt desire of all Muslims to see the Islamic Revolution exported, but not through cash or violence, rather through genuine teachings of Islam and Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him). All Muslims know that Islam does not depend on money. Since belief cannot be purchased. True Islamic power comes from

God and their Muslim brothers and sisters in the world of Islam as it can be seen in the cases of Algeria and Egypt, not on this or that country's financial aids. The moral supports of Muslims come from God and the Holy Koran which can be found in every Muslim's house.

The Algerian and Egyptian regimes cannot defeat Muslim activists by relating them to Iran or any other country. Islam has been always triumphant with reliance on faith.

Paper Says Britain Uses Rushdie for 'Fomenting Crisis'

NC2105123893 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES INTERNATIONAL WEEKLY in English 13 May 93 p 2

[Editorial: "Major's Poor Publicity Stunt"]

[Text] Once again the British government has managed to pull a publicity stunt which could not possibly be more serious than a poor T.V. show.

The British Prime Minister, John Major, whose position is seriously undermined by election setbacks, suddenly decided to meet the apostate author of the blasphemous book "The Satanic Verses," Salman Rushdie.

One wonders why in the midst of a serious internal crisis the British Prime Minister should have decided to meet Salman Rushdie who offended the religious sentiments of millions of Muslims all over the world and was consequently condemned to death by the late leader of Iran's Islamic revolution. The meeting was such an obviously willful act of outrage against Iran, which is improving its relations with the European countries, that it could not conceivably be without ulterior motives.

Nevertheless, Major's meeting with Rushdie cannot really be regarded as anything more serious than a public show, and it was undoubtedly meant to divert attention from the serious predicament with which Major's government now finds itself confronted.

Outside of its political context, and judging John Major's meeting with Salman Rushdie on its face value, there is little doubt that the meeting was meant to be a symbolic gesture in defense of the freedom of expression. In that case then one may ask why the British Prime Minister should feel it his duty to support the right to freedom of expression of the man who has outraged millions of Muslims, and deprive the offended party—millions of Muslims all over the world—of the right to express their religious view. The judgment passed on Salman Rushdie is a religious verdict (Fatwa) which has been issued in accordance with the Islamic shari'ah. In a sense the verdict is also an expression of the outraged feelings of the Islamic nations.

It has often been emphasized that the Iranian government never intended to dispatch commandos after Rushdie, but it insists on its freedom to express its view on the fate which the author of the blasphemous book deserves.

The fact of the matter is that the British government has been using Salman Rushdie as a tool for fomenting crisis at suitable junctures, and it is to be seriously doubted that John Major cares for freedom of speech more than he is worried about preserving his premiership.

Nepal

Japanese Delegation, Finance Ministry Discuss Aid

BK2405153993 Hong Kong AFP in English 1534 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Kathmandu, May 24 (AFP)—A visiting seven-member delegation from Japan's Oversea Development Agency (ODA) and a team from Nepal's Finance Ministry began talks here Monday [24 May] on public utility projects aided by Japan, an official said.

The Japanese delegation to the two days of talks is headed by the ODA's head of the Grant Aid Division within the Foreign Ministry, Masato Kitera, who arrived here Sunday on a week long official visit to discuss the prospects of aid for other projects, the Finance Ministry official said.

The Nepalese side is being led by Secretary of Finance Thakur Nath Pant, who met the delegation and thanked Japan for its continued support of public utility projects here.

The current meeting will also discuss Japanese financial giants and technical assistance for Nepal during fiscal and select priority government projects to be launched soon, the official said.

Soon after arriving Kitera met Nepalese Minister of State for Finance Mahesh Acharya for talks on bilateral economic cooperation in particular the implementation of ongoing projects and the prospects of aid to future works.

Communist Party Elects New Secretary General

BK2405152593 Hong Kong AFP in English 1514 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Kathmandu, May 24 (AFP)—The Nepal Communist Party (United Marxist and Leninist) (NCP-UML) has unanimously elected Madhav Kumar Nepal to the post of secretary general, party sources said Monday [24 May].

The previous incumbent, Madan Kumar Bhandari, and party Central Committee member Jeev Raj Ashrit were killed in a road accident west of here May 16.

Monday's meeting of the NCP-UML Central Committee also unanimously elected Bam Dev Gautam as head of the party's Central Organization, the post left vacant by Ashrit's death.

The same meeting also conferred Bhandari the title of "People's Leader," the source said.

Political analysts here said the untimely deaths of Bhandari and Ashrit have created a vacuum in the leadership of the NCP-UML.

They also view the emergence of two new leaders with important party responsibilities as a significant change in the leadership of Nepal's major opposition party in parliament.

Born in 1952, Nepal joined the NCP-UML in 1979 while he was studying at Birgunj College.

Influenced by China's Cultural Revolution in the 1960s and 1970s, he was arrested and jailed for two years between 1975 and 1976 for speaking out against the government.

He was a regular member of the party's Politburo from 1978.

Pakistan

Peshawar Police Launch New Crackdown on Arab Nationals

BK2505080193 Peshawar THE FRONTIER POST in English 24 May 93 pp 1, 2

[All names as published]

[Text] Peshawar police launched yet another crackdown on Afghan war veterans Sunday and arrested 14 Arab nationals for illegal stay in Pakistan.

The Hayatabad and University Town police rounded up these Arabs from their houses in the posh Peshawar localities Sunday afternoon. They were sent to lock up and investigations are underway to ascertain as to whether they possessed the required documents for legally staying in Pakistan.

Authorities denied having arrested the Arabs but THE FRONTIER POST sources confirmed that the new Arab detanus were lodged in Heyatabad police station.

Given a tough time to the Arab nationals by the provincial authorities over the last few weeks, most of these Arabs are now reported to be planning to shift across the Durand line, into Afghanistan.

Sources also revealed that hundreds of these activists for fear of being nabbed by police following their native governments' request for extraditing them have already left Peshawar for "safe havens" inside Afghanistan. The Afghan groups have ensured their safe passage and stay in that country after they were declared as nondesirable person in Pakistan.

Those arrested on Sunday included, Hamid Siddique son of Siddique of Sudan, Mohammad Abdul Majeed son of Plibu of Libya, Abdul Basit son of Salim of Libya, Mohammad Abu Zaid of Syria, Shah Zawani son of Mohammad Algharbi of Algeria, Bin Shaat son of Ibrahim of Algeria, Ramazan son of Masaud of Libya, Mohammad son of Jamal of Iraq, Qasoos Ali son of Abdullah of Morocco, Samat Saleh son of Saleh of Daman, Talib Saeed son of Sased of Saudi Arabia and Medhad son of Abdul Salam.

Three of them, Muhammad Abu Zaid, Khan Fawad and Mohammad Mazian were later declared to be legally staying in Pakistan and were released.

A representative of Arab nations while talking to THE FRONTIER POST deplored the childish attitude on the part of the administration and government and said that they had already assured the government of Pakistan that they don't want to live here as uninvited guests.

Commenting over the current crackdown he said "we do not understand as to why we are being harassed as we have already informed them that we are winding up to leave the country.".

He further informed that due to the irresponsible attitude of the authorities of Pakistan, "hundreds of Arabs had already left for Afghanistan and many more would do so in coming days."

He claimed that the Gulf Airlines has been instructed by hidden hands not to carry these Arabs to countries of their choice. He expressed surprise that they have been ordered to leave for any country of their choice except Afghanistan and exclaimed "why should not Afghanistan".

Meanwhile, a two member bench of Peshawar High Court ordered the remaining 15 Arab detenus to leave to any country of their choice except Afghanistan within 22 days. The court dismissed the case of the Arab nationals, filed against their detention Sunday.

In the case which was filed by two local lawyers of Peshawar the plea was taken that these Arabs were not terrorists and were mojahids who had rendered great sacrifices during Afghan war.

Earlier, the court had ordered the two parties, Home department and Arab representative to reach a consensus over the time frame required for the Arabs to leave Pakistan.

They were directed by the court to discuss individual cases and decide time period in which the Arabs could conveniently leave the country. The government officials agreed on allowing meximum 15 days for the Arabs to leave Pakistan whereas the Arab representative insisted on one month's period. The court fixed 22 days for the

arrested Arabs and ordered their release. The court further ordered them to leave Pakistan to a country of their own choice except Afghanistan.

Afghan President Rabbani Continues Visit

Agreement on Joint Commissions

BK2305035093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Pakistan and Afghanistan have agreed in principle to set up joint commissions in the fields of economic cooperation, communications, narcotics control, and anti-terrorism. This decision was made during a meeting between Afghan President Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani and Prime Minister Mir Balkh Sher Mazari in Islamabad last night. The two leaders held in-depth discussions for more than an hour in a very friendly and brotherly atmosphere. Congratulating Prof. Rabbani on the Jalalabad accord, the prime minister said the people and Government of Pakistan want to see the Afghan people live in peace and tranquillity and attend to the urgent tasks of rehabilitating and reconstructing Afghanistan. The Afghan president thanked Pakistan for its continued assistance during the Afghan jihad.

Later, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari hosted a dinner in honor of the distinguished guest and his delegation members. Punjab Governor Chaudhary Altaf Hussain, Sindh Chief Minister Syed Muzaffar Hussain Shah, federal ministers, ministers of state, senators, diplomats, and high civil and military officials also attended the dinner.

Supports Kashmiris' Struggle

BK2405023093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Afghan President Professor Borhanoddin Rabbani has said that the people of Kashmir are engaged in a holy struggle for independence and their struggle cannot be termed as terrorism. Addressing a news conference in Islamabad yesterday, he said that support for the freedom movement cannot be described as abetment to terrorism. He termed Pakistan's support for Kashmiris as a most noble humanitarian and commendable step.

Group Leader Claims U.S. Fanning Sectarianism

BK2205112393 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 22 May 93 p 4

[Text] Lahore, May 21—President of the Hizb-Jehad, Agha Martaza Pooya, has said at present Pakistan was faced with extreme hostilities from America, Israel and [words indistinct] at any length to denuclearise and de-Islamise Pakistan.

He said for achieving these nefarious objectives these countries conspired to create sectarianism in Pakistan.

Giving a presidential address at the divisional convention of ISO [Imamin Students Organization] here on Friday, Mr Pooya recalled that there was no sectarianism in Pakistan before 1979 but after the Islamic revolution in Iran the imperialist countries fanned sectarianism in Pakistan to prevent the influenced of [word indistinct] revolution on Pakistan.

He said US was seeing every ideology as a great threat to its interests and that was why it was trying to destabilise China at one hand and Islamic countries on the other.

He claimed that Iranian revolution had left its imprints on the [words indistinct] and Kashmir and now they were on the verge of independence. He said democracy could only succeed in a society where morality was very strong.

He paid glowing trbute to ISO for playing a major role to strengthen morality in Pakistan. He said it was the ISO which made all out efforts to introduce the philosophy of Imam Khomeini in Pakistan.

Earlier, addressing the convention the Federal Minister of State Syed Muneer Hussain Gilani hailed the youth of ISO for protecting the ideological frontiers of Pakistan along with paying their full attention to that [word indistinct].

He said Pakistan could not develop unless its literacy rate was enhanced. He regretted that at present Pakistan was spending only 2.04 percent of its national budget on education which was even below the average each SAARC [South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation] country was spending on education.

U.S. Urged To Persuade India Over Kashmir Settlement

BK2505064993 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1600 GMT 24 May 93

[Commentary by Mohammad Yamin]

[Text] The U.S. deputy assistant secretary of state in charge of South Asian affairs was on a fairly long visit to India and Pakistan recently. On more than one occasion, he stressed what must be regarded as Clinton administration's official view of how it saw matters in India and Pakistan and also what was wrong with the India-Pakistan relations and what could be done to improve these. The most forthright of Mr. Malott's pronouncements and perhaps the most emphatic was the one that he made before a select audience in New Delhi. The most important point that John Malott made in his address was about Kashmir. Stating emphatically that the United States considered the whole of the state as disputed territory, John Malott said that the issue needed to be resolved peacefully by India and Pakistan, taking the view of Kashmiri people—both Muslims and non-Muslims—into account.

Malott went on to say that Washington was concerned about the situation in Indian-held Kashmir where a freedom struggle has been waging with great intensity, particulary during the last four years. He also observed that civilians in Kashmir valley were suffering at the hands of the Indian forces. Ever increasing violence, in his opinion, was making political decision difficult. Malott, therefore, urged both India and Pakistan to (?escape the vicious circle) in Kashmir. He has stressed that India should take efforts to curb abuses by the Indian occupation forces in Kashmir and also permit human rights organizations to visit the held territory to confirm for themselves. He has also advised India to pursue a meaningful dialogue on Kashmir, underscoring Clinton Administration's primary concern to reduce tension in South Asia and prevent war between India and Pakistan. He clarified that Washington did not advocate any particular solution on Kashmir but would assist both sides in settling the issue so as to avoid the threat of war between the two countries.

The United States, he said, could encourage high-level Indo- Pakistan talks on regional security and nonproliferation, supplementing them with its own bilateral talks with both the countries, while maintaining an even-handed approach. Pakistan has, of course, welcomed the Malott initiative while India has rejected it with usual disdain. It is now up to the United States to persuade and induce India to resolve the Kashmir issue through peaceful means.

Foreign Minister Briefs Butrus-Ghali on Kashmir

BK2205064493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0600 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] Pakistan has told the United Nations that the time has come to make India realize the seriousness of the situation in Kashmir. This was stated by Foreign Minister Sharifuddin Pirzada to reporters after a 45-minute meeting with UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali in New York last night. He said he told the UN secretary general that Pakistan has received information that India is sending two more army divisions to occupied Kashmir where 50,000 Indian troops are already present to crush the freedom movement launched by the Kashmiri people to realize their right to self-determination.

The foreign minister said he informed Butrus-Ghali of the decisions made at the 30th Islamic foreign ministers conference, particularly on Bosnia, Kashmir and Afghanistan. Explaining the deteriorating situation in Kashmir, Sharifuddin Pirzada said he told the secretary general about the brute force that the Indian occupation forces are using to suppress innocent people. He also told him about the violation of the Kashmiri people's rights.

The foreign minister said he also stressed during his talks with the UN secretary general that the arms embargo against Bosnian Muslims should be lifted so that they can respond to the Serbs' aggression and genocidal policy.

PRC Air Force Chief Meets Army, Air Force Chiefs

BK2205143893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] The commander of Air Force of People's Republic of China, Lieutenant General Cao Shuang Ming, called on the Chief of Army Staff, General Abdul Waheed, at the General Headquarters in Rawalpindi. The commander of the Chinese Air Force remained with Gen. Abdul Waheed for some time and exchanged views on matters of mutual significance.

Gen. Cao Shuang Ming also visited the Air Force headquarters at Chaklala and held a meeting with the air chief, Air Chief Marshal Farooq Firoze Khan. The two air chiefs had a detailed over view of relations between the air forces of the two friendly countries. Important professional matters of mutual interest were discussed in the meeting.

Calls on Prime Minister

BK2405024493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Lieutenant General Cao Shuang Ming, commander of the Chinese Air Force, called on Prime Minister Mir Balkh Sher Mazari in Islamabad yesterday. The prime minister expressed the hope that the visit of the Chinese Air Force chief would help further strengthen and stabilize the air forces of the two countries. Air Force Chief Farooq Firoze Khan was also present on the occasion.

Received by Defense Minister

BK2405145493 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] The Chinese air chief, Lieutenant General Cao Shuang Ming, called on the federal minister for defense, Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani, in Rawalpindi today. During the meeting, the Chinese air chief discussed matters of bilateral interest between the air forces of the two countries. He expressed satisfaction over the existing levels of cooperation. The defense minister apprised the Chinese air chief of the government's efforts to achieve self- reliance in defense. Mir Hazar Khan Bijarani expressed his gratitude over the valuable assistance from China in this context.

Nigerian Army Chief of Staff Arrives for Talks

BK2305115893 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in English 1100 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] The Nigerian chief of the Army Staff, Lieutenant General (Salehu Ibrahim), along with his seven-member entourage, arrived on a five-day official visit to Pakistan in Rawalpindi today. The Nigerian chief of the Army Staff is visiting Pakistan on the invitation of the chief of the Army Staff, General Abdul Waheed. Later he called on Gen. Abdul Waheed in his office and discussed

matters of professional interest with him. He also attended a detailed briefing on professional matters at the General Headquarters.

Meets With President

BK2305145393 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] The chief of the Army Staff of Nigeria, Lieutenant General (Salehu Ibrahim), called on President Ghulam Ishaq Khan at the Aiwan-i-Sadr [President's House] today. The president welcomed Lt. Gen. (Salehu Ibrahim) to Pakistan and referred to the excellent relations between the two countries. He said there should be more exchange of visits in order to give further impetus to these relations. The president expressed satisfaction that the meeting of Pakistan-Nigeria joint ministerial commission had taken place last year and a number of Nigerian entrepreneurs were looking into the possibility of investing in Pakistan.

The Nigerian Army chief conveyed to the president greetings from President Babangida of Nigeria. He expressed gratitude for the facilities accorded by Pakistan Army to Nigerian Armed Forces personnel. The Nigerian ambassador to Pakistan, present on the occasion, said Nigeria had purchased cement and sugar plants from Pakistan and was also considering cooperation in the field of rural electrification. The chief of the Army Staff, General Abdul Waheed, and senior officials were present during the meeting.

Economic Council Approves Annual Plan for 1993-94

BK2305142893 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] The National Economic Council [NEC] approved today the annual plan 1993-94. Under the plan the projected growth rate of GDP for the year 1993-94 is estimated to be 7.5 percent. Exports are also projected to register an increase of 15 percent resulting in substantial improvement in balance of payment. The NEC which met under the chairmanship of the prime minister, Mir Balkh Sher Mazari, reviewed the annual plan for 1992-93 and the economic situation of the country. Provincial chief ministers and federal ministers attending the meeting highlighted the development activities in their respective provinces and sectors.

Finance Minister on IMF Loan, 'Alarming State' of Economy

BK2205144193 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 22 May 93

[Text] The IMF and the World Bank missions, after two weeks of talks in Islamabad with Pakistan officials, have concluded two agreements. According to the agreements reached with the IMF, Pakistan will get $1 billion for a medium-term program under enhanced structural facility. Under the agreement reached with the World Bank, $250 million will be made available by the Bank to finalize the public sector adjustment loan.

Addressing a news conference after the agreements were reached at, the finance minister, Sardar Farooq Ahmad Khan Leghari, said although the caretaker government has only a brief mandate, it will not hesitate to take steps necessary to steer the national economy which has reached an alarming state. He said debt servicing is the most worrying aspect of our economy. Governments in the past have borrowed heavily. This trend must be checked; otherwise we will have to borrow for just debt servicing. He said the former government also indulged in heavy borrowing and ambitious spending to aggravate the already grave external debt situation. The finance minister said the understanding reached with the IMF and the World Bank will help arrest inflation and improve our balance of payments position.

Benazir Bhutto Outlines Party's Economic Policies

BK2505053793 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 25 May 93

[Text] Addressing the members of the Pakistan Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry in Karachi last night, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, co-chairperson of the Pakistan People Party [PPP], has said her party wants to see Pakistan as a moderate, modern, developed, and democratic Islamic country. She said, besides providing ample amenities to foreign investors, the PPP believes in expediting the process of industrialization. On privatization policy, she said, in fact, it was launched by the PPP government, and if her party comes to power, it would be revamped so as to ensure that the entire privatization process is clear and transparent, workers and middle class people get ownership rights, and industry does not concentrate in a few hands. The co-chairperson of the PPP also said her party is in favor of restoring the legislation on imposing income tax on agricultural income.

Earlier, in his welcome address, Mian Habibullah, the president of the Pakistan Federation of Chambers of Commerce and Industry, suggested several measures to reduce the gap between various political parties and the business community.

Islamic Parties Establish Front at Lahore Convention

BK2405155493 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 1500 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] The Pakistan Islamic Front was formed at a delegate convention held in Lahore today under the auspices of the Jamaat-i-Islami. A communique issued on the occasion says that the establishment of the front is aimed at making Pakistan a truly Islamic democratic state. It adds that the front will ensure provincial autonomy, promote unity among the people, eliminate all kinds of prejudices, and set up a permanent and

effective system of accountability for all politicians. The front will improve administrative affairs, foreign policy, and the electoral system. It will not accept any pressure on the issue of the nuclear program and will safeguard the federation of Pakistan. Earlier, addressing the convention, Jamaat-i-Islami Chief Qazi Hussain Ahmed said the Pakistan Islamic Front will prove to be a milestone in the national and political life of the country.

Spokesman Clarifies Army's Role in Coming Elections

BK2405145293 Islamabad PTV Television Network in English 1400 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] An Army spokesman today clarified the factual position regarding the news item published in today's papers pertaining to the Army's role in the forthcoming elections. He emphasized that the press release in question had been issued by the Ministry of Defense and was not issued by the Army. Elaborating further, he said that the Army remains committed to fulfilling all constitutional orders issued to it. Army has been asked to assist the Election Commission in the supervision and conduct of the national elections. The spokesman said as this is a gigantic task requiring elaborate staff work, contingency planning has to commence well in advance. However, actual implementation will obviously depend on the decision of the Supreme Court on the issue of dissolution of the National Assembly and final orders received from the Election Commission.

Speaker Cancels Balochistan Assembly Session

BK2305040093 Islamabad Radio Pakistan Network in Urdu 0200 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Malik Sikander Khan, the speaker of the Balochistan assembly, has said that in view of the resignation of Chief Minister Taj Mohammad Khan Jamali, there is no need to convene an assembly session which was scheduled to take place this morning. Talking to reporters in Quetta last night, he said he will now formally deal with the no-confidence motion in the assembly chamber. He said it is up to the governor to convene an assembly session to elect the new leader of the house.

Sri Lanka

Three Provincial Council Chief Ministers Sworn In

BK2105135793 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 1311 GMT 21 May 93

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 21 May (LANKAPUVATH)—Three chief ministers were sworn in for the Southern, Western and North-Western Provincial Councils Friday [21 May].

M.S. Amarasiri of the ruling United National Party (UNP) was sworn in as the chief minister of the Southern Province before Governor Bakir Marker at the governor's office in Galle this afternoon. He will also act as the minister of local government, education, land development, law and order and finance.

Mr. Amarasiri, a former cabinet minister was the chief minister of the last Southern Provincial Council.

Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaranatunga of the People's Alliance Party took oaths as the chief minister of Western Province before the governor, S. Sharwananda at the governor's official residence in Colombo this afternoon.

Gamini Jayawickrema Perera of UNP was sworn in as the chief minister of the North-Western Province before Governor Montegu Jayawickrema in Colombo this morning. He also took oaths as the minister of education, industries, and local government at the governor's office in Kurunegala this afternoon.

Mr. Jayawickrema Perera was chief minister in the last NWPC [North-Western Provincial Council]. The chief ministers of Central, Sabaragamuwa, and North-Central Provinces will be sworn in next week.

Opposition Criticizes Move

BK2105140293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1344 GMT 21 May 93

[Text] Colombo, May 21 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's ruling party Friday [21 May] took control of two provincial administrations despite opposition claims for leadership and plunged the country into a fresh political crisis.

President Dingiri Banda Wijetunga's United National Party appointed chief ministers to the Northwestern and Southern provincial councils where a combined opposition was in the majority after Monday's local elections.

The main opposition Sri Lanka Freedom Party (SLFP) condemned the government move as "a blatant violation of the spirit of the constitution and an assault on democracy."

Opposition front bencher Nimal Siripala de Silva said they were contemplating "political as well as legal action" to take over the two councils where the UNP had no working majority.

"Of course, at the first available opportunity we will defeat the UNP at the two provincial councils. The government has acted against democracy despite our informing that we enjoy a majority," de Silva told reporters.

The provincial councils are the most important local government bodies and they enjoy limited autonomy to enact laws, raise taxes and establish a provincial police force as well as paramilitary units.

The SLFP said it, together with a breakaway faction of the UNP, had a one-seat majority in the 55-member Southern Council and a two-member lead over the UNP in the 52-member Northwestern Council.

An SLFP-led five-party alliance Friday established its control over the Western Council, which covers the territory of Colombo, with its candidate Chandrika Bandaranaike being sworn in as the chief minister.

The UNP was able to get an absolute majority only in four out of the seven provinces that went to the polls Monday.

Constitutionally, provincial council governers who are appointed by the President should appoint chief ministers from the party, which according to his opinion, could command a majority of the regional assemblies.

Court Challenge

BK2405113293 Hong Kong AFP in English 1115 GMT 24 May 93

[Text] Colombo, May 24 (AFP)—Sri Lanka's main opposition parties challenged in court Monday [24 May] a government decision to take control of two provincial councils, a move which has plunged the country into a constitutional crisis.

The ruling United National Party (UNP) on Friday took over the Southern and Northwestern Councils, where a combined opposition won majorities in the May 17 elections to the councils, the country's most important local government bodies.

"The government has out-foxed the Constitution. We hope the court will be able to give an order within a matter of weeks," said the leader of the opposition Democratic United National Front (DUNF), Gamini Dissanayake.

He said his party, together with the main opposition People's Alliance, had a majority in the two disputed councils and should have been given an opportunity to form the regional administrations.

However, a government spokesman maintained it had the support of opposition members and could prove that it had mustered a majority.

The UNP became the largest single party in both councils but was one seat short of an absolute majority in the Southern Council and two short in the Northwestern Council.

The UNP lost the most important council, that of Western Province, which covers the capital Colombo. It was taken by the People's Alliance, which established a power-sharing arrangement with the DUNF.

The local councils have limited powers to set up regional police forces, raise taxes and enact laws.

President Names Ex-Army Commander as Security Adviser

BK2305132693 Hong Kong AFP in English 0945 GMT 23 May 93

[Text] Colombo, May 23 (AFP)—Sri Lankan president Dingiri Banda Wijetunga has appointed a former Army commander and the country's top diplomat in London as his new national security advisor, it was reported Sunday [23 May].

General Sepala Attygalle would function as national security advisor to Wijetunga and simultaneously head two other government institutions, THE SUNDAY TIMES said quoting Wijetunga's secretary, K.H. Wijedasa.

Attygalle was in charge of security forces' operations at the height of the Tamil separatist war in the 1980s before assuming duties as Defence Secretary. In 1989, he became Sri Lanka's high commisioner (ambassador) to Britain.

The newspaper said Attygalle's new duties as security advisor would relate to the current war in the northeast between government troops and Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas.

Following Wijetunga's decision to change staff in state institutions, Attygalle has also been appointed chairman of Sri Lanka's national carrier AirLanka and head of the country's Airport and Aviation Services.

Wijetunga, who succeeded slain president Ranasinghe Premadasa on May 7, has been carrying out a radical clean up of his administration by appointing experienced personnel to head government corporations and enterprises.

The new president also disbanded a para-military "flying squad" established by Premadasa to hound opponents of the government and has ordered an investigation into the unit's activities.